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RESTORATION

OF

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH

OF HEREFORD.

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RESTORATION OF HEREFORD CATHEDRAL CHURCH

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Universis Christi fidelibus presens scriptum visuris vel audituris, Ecclesiae nostrae Herefordiensis benefactoribus; praecipue Dominae nostrae Victoriae Reginae, Fidei Defensori, necnon Adelaidae Reginae, ob pium Ecclesiae cultum omnium Suffragiis spectandis, quarum Capellanus per plures annos fuimus, salutem in Domino. Noverit Universitas vestra nos Johannem Merewether, Sa.T.P., Ss.A. et Ss.R. Socium, Decanum, servum servorum Domini humillimum, ob pium erga Ecclesiam nostram affectum, et bonam per preces vestras et eleemosynas, debitae restaurationis ejusdem spem, a synodo Diocesano haud minime rogatos hunc libellum vobis dedicasse; quod felix atque faustum sit orantes, in Eo, cujus meritis Solum confidimus.

A STATEMENT

OF THE CONDITION AND CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF HEREFORD,

IN THE YEAR 1841.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I BEG to assure you that I am in no degree insensible to the heavy responsibility which rests upon me on this occasion. I am expected to convey to you a just and adequate appreciation of the peculiar circumstances of the venerable edifice of which I am one of the guardians, and I must crave your indulgent consideration whilst I endeavour to acquit myself of the duty which so devolves upon me in the execution of it. I am anxious to trespass for as short a time as possible on your attention, but not so briefly as to omit anything which it may be essential for you to know. My object is, to put you in possession of the real state of the case, at least that which, from minute personal examination and diligent study of every detail, I believe to be the real state of the case. I acknow-

ledge the reasonableness of the expectation, that if your aid is solicited, you should be satisfied that it is really needed, and that the object is not only "worthy for whom you should do this," but that it may be regarded, as fairly and probably attainable, as well as soundly and judiciously planned, divested at once of all visionary innovation, and unprecedented alteration, and all unnecessary and exorbitant expenditure. Although the nature of my subject may require some length of exposition, I venture to rely on a patient hearing, and I make it an earnest request, that in case I should omit any topic on which you may desire information, or should so treat of it as to leave it doubtful or defective of lucid developement, you would kindly ask me for the requisite explanation, for the opportunity of giving which I shall feel extremely thankful. That the subject is indeed one of interest in itself I need not affirm, your presence here to day proclaims that truth.—The ancient and majestic fabric, for whose sustentation this meeting is assembled, has claims upon the regard of all who have been accustomed to derive gratification from contemplating the achievements of human skill, or to receive impressions of reverence from sacred associations. It is not merely the most splendid monument of masonic skill in this district, and that of an age which is reckoned by centuries, but it is the venerable, and still beautiful mother—the mother Church of this whole diocese; which ought to be both the pattern and the pride of all her handmaids, her fellow-helpers in the work

of the ministry, and of all who derive spiritual benefit from those her daughters who are located in each surrounding parish. Not only because in her the daily offering of prayer and praise is wont to be presented—(*was* wont I should say, for now indeed the pealing organ and the solemn chant have ceased, but oh, that they may soon resound again in the beauty of Holiness)—but because it is the early monument of your ancestral piety, the noble and the costly dedication to Jehovah and the glorified Son of God, of those who "offered willingly," and in itself an exquisite and appropriate means of attuning and directing the heart towards Heaven. Surely were there reluctance to respond to these sentiments, it might be said again to us, as of old by a Prophet (Haggai i.) of that God whose dwelling has been placed therein, and there continued in his blessing and his mercy, twice or even thrice as long a period as was vouchsafed to Solomon's more visibly but not more vitally distinguished Temple.—"Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses and this house lie waste?" But I am transgressing the rule I had proposed to myself; I would confine myself to explanation, and declaration of facts; no solicitations are in fact required, none are necessary, and from me they would be specially unbecoming. The tide of liberal contribution has set in, it will flow on, and "our holy and beautiful house will be restored." I leave it to others to suggest the constraining motives which may well be expected to prevail—the antiquity, the beauty, the

national interest of the sacred edifice, which may be pleaded in behalf of our projected reparations and restorations. I shall avoid all attempt at rhetorical embellishment—I desire to use great plainness of speech, and, with confidence in that spirit which has already manifested itself, will gladly confine myself to that course of duty which more especially belongs to me on this occasion, to a simple narrative of facts. This I proceed then to attempt in the order which the subject seems most naturally to suggest, by declaring—

First.—The nature of the several dilapidations and the occasion and mode of their discovery.

Secondly.—The plans and extent of reparation and restoration proposed.

Thirdly.—The costs which these would incur.

Fourthly.—The means which the Cathedral itself supplies.

Fifthly.—The voluntary contributions which the members of the Cathedral body have already guaranteed.

Sixthly.—The sources from which we encourage a hope that the residue of requisite funds may be obtained.

First, then, as to the nature of the several dilapidations, and the occasion and mode of their discovery.

In the autumn of the year 1840, (Oct. 3d,) I was walking with Mr. Hardwick, the eminent Architect employed by the Bishop of the diocese, in preparing plans for the alterations contemplated at the palace; and in passing the eastern exterior of the Lady Chapel, represented in plate 2, he said "If you

do not take care you will surely have that beautiful building down." The observation made a deep impression on my mind.—The state of decay in that part of the fabric had long been anxiously watched by me, but having ascertained that Mr. Hardwick really meant what he said, having long known him as a most honourable and talented man, and that his assurance could not be otherwise than disinterested and sincere; I did not feel myself at liberty to disregard such a warning given on such authority, and being then the only member of the Cathedral body at hand, I immediately took upon myself the responsibility of having shores and props erected in such a manner as at least to relieve the walls of some of the pressure, and to prevent their bulging farther out. In the early part of the subsequent spring, Mr. Cottingham was called in to examine that part of the building, at which time there was no anticipation that the Chapter would be obliged to have recourse to extraneous aid, for they had no reason to suspect that there was any other part of the Cathedral so defective, as to require more than the ordinary measure of annual reparation—so completely covered up were all those points in which subsequent examination proved their confident security to have been most fallacious.

Upon clearing away the whitewash and plaster, which is the plague spot, the spreading plague, which mars the beauty of our ecclesiastical fabrics, and of none more lamentably than Hereford Cathedral; it appeared, that the crack which was

observable in the soffit of each of these exquisitely beautiful window arches, was in fact a fissure, in some places four inches wide; that the external and internal ashlars were unconnected, the fissure running vertically between them, and that the core of the wall had no connection with the ashlar, the bond stones being drawn off and the rubble masonry having lost all its cohesive properties: in order duly to appreciate this description, it may be useful to understand, that the mode of construction adopted by masons of early times, was different from that in common practice at the present day; their walls were much thicker, and were composed of hewn stone forming a sort of casing at each side, which is called ashlar, the interstice being filled up with rubble masonry or grouting, (pieces of stone cemented together by lime and loam,) and when the bond stones of this ashlar are sufficiently long, forming a compact and substantial wall: this important requisite does not appear to have been sufficiently attended to in this instance; the consequence has been that the weight above has split the wall, though happily the interior face of the most beautiful character of the period to which it belongs, is upright and sound. The outer ashlar having nothing to attach it to its fellow in the inside, has bulged out so considerably as to cause great dislocation of the stones, and to be apparently in a state of danger, to the observation of any person who may pass by.—The plans exhibited of each portion of the building will give a general idea of its form and symmetry, whilst the coloured

drawing of a section of the wall will convey an accurate understanding of the defects just described. These remarks will be rendered intelligible by plate 3, representing the section of the wall through the centre light of this beautiful window.—I have learnt that amongst many absurd misconceptions which have been in circulation, it has been asserted, that this alarming condition of the building arises from the Dean's rashness in removing the earth from the base of the building, some five or six years ago: it is hardly necessary to refute such an erroneous surmise, although it may serve to shew how generally unworthy of attention any such mere fancies must be.—It is perfectly true that I was instrumental in obtaining the removal of earth from this and other parts of the Cathedral; in some places accumulated to the height of four or five feet, and which not only destroyed the proportions of this building, (actually covering the windows of the Crypt) but did the walls, composed of stone of a friable and spongy nature, exceeding injury, by soaking them with moisture and damp, which was manifest in the Crypt below, as well as in the floors of the interior generally, and which are now as dry as can be desired; but the foundation of this east end of the Lady Chapel is substantial and sound, and much improved by its exposure to the air; it is the superstructure which is defective, and the cause of the malady is above,—it is the superincumbent weight which has split the insufficiently bonded walls, besides which, it has not recently commenced; and this

may be clearly demonstrated from the discovery of pieces of tile thrust into the cracks, and covered over with mortar and whitewash, which may be seen at this present time. The fissures having been traced to the base of the jambs of the windows, it was of course necessary to follow them to their utmost depth; in order to effect this, the removal of the oak panelling fitted to the wall below the windows was unavoidable; but to accomplish this, the cumbrous bookcases which filled up the greater part of the area, were, of necessity, displaced, and to remove them, the unsightly lath and plaster partitions from the sides of the pillar at the west end of the Chapel, were taken down. The ashlar of the wall below the windows indicated considerable disturbance, and will require to be re-constructed; no little injury having been caused (in addition to what may be termed the natural mischief) by the driving of plugs into the joints to fix the panelling to. I cannot refrain from touching briefly on some of the beauties and interesting features developed by the clearing of this most splendid room, represented in part by plate 4, its symmetrical proportions, before completely spoilt; the remnants of its ancient painting, which were traceable beneath the whitewash; the fair disclosure of the monuments of Joanna de Kilpec,* a benefactress to this very edifice, and Humphrey de Bohun, her husband, both of exceeding interest; the discovery of two aumbries, both walled up, but one with the stones composing

* See Appendix.

it reversed; the double piscina on the south side, the Chapel of Bishop Audley; but especially two of the most beautiful specimens of transition arches which can be found in any edifice, bearing the Early English form, the shafts and capitals and the lancet shaped arch above, but ornamented in their soffits with the Norman moulding, and the zigzag decoration, corresponding with the remarkable union of the Norman intersecting arches on the exterior of the building, with its pointed characteristics. One of these is represented in plate 5. The appearance of the central column with a base in the Early English, and its capital with the Norman ornament, might be added: the stairs to the Crypt, and the discovery of several most interesting relics in the adjoining vaults opened in reducing the floor to its original level; but I must leave these to the department of the antiquary, and proceed in the execution of my proper duty. Having ascertained by this process that so much of mischief was concealed as well as beauty, and having had his attention called to some cracks in the groining above the transept between the Lady Chapel and the altar, Mr. Cottingham proceeded to seek the cause of such an indication of unsoundness; the result of which was the satisfactory conclusion that these were not of recent appearance, and were not increased since I had first observed them about seven years ago, when the cause was in fact removed. At that period I had been led to imagine that the Grecian screen in the interior of the choir, concealed some of the original

decoration of that part, and having ascended to the summit of its central pediment, on removing a portion of plaster, I was charmed by the appearance of a stone apparently forming part of the architrave of an arch, which bore traces of Norman ornaments. I naturally concluded that the original composition might be still in existence, but, on removing the picture below, it was evident that the arch was of comparatively modern construction, though composed of ancient worked stones, and had been filled up with solid masonry, the face of which was plastered, and on it was painted the Decalogue, in English, in black letter, with the capital letters illuminated; observing that the thickness of the wall at this spot was from eight to ten feet, I was by no means satisfied with the discovery I had made, and on minute investigation of the opposite side, two small cracks in the face of the wall, equidistant from the centre were discernible, which upon being examined, disclosed the interior portion of the once majestic and beautiful decoration of the east end of the Choir. The double columns and their capitals on either side, as well as a portion of the arch above were perfect, but the interstice between the two walls had been filled up with the broken fragments of figures, torn from different monuments, and amongst them, four from that of Humphrey de Bohun already mentioned, in the Lady Chapel; it is specially remarkable that the wall between the double columns was evidently built at the time the central column was constructed, for the stones of

that column, in several parts elongated, formed part of the wall; the capital of that column is correspondent with the Early English or transition style of the entrance to the Lady Chapel, whilst the ribs of the groining springing from it, bear the Norman ornaments, which are supported on the opposite side by a column, with a Norman capital and Early English base. It might even then have been considered fortunate that this discovery was made, for on opening the part lying between the remnant of the ancient arch, it seemed that the wood work placed there to carry the gutter plate below the window, subsequently introduced, and the struts, which alone withstood the thrust of the half groin which pressed against it, had completely perished. The mode of securing the defective part was devised by myself; it was sufficiently substantial I believe to answer the purpose, but still, in the hope that it would be only auxilliary to that restoration of the original features of this portion of the Church, which I then ventured to suggest, and to show the effect of which, I caused a lithographic print to be struck off, but which was reserved for a later period, and the influences of far more efficient auspices. Under these circumstances it was very natural that I should feel anxious that the existing cracks in the groining above should be investigated, and being at that time about to leave Hereford, to resume my usual duties in London, I told Mr. Cottingham I much wished that before he left Hereford, he would ascertain the state of soundness at this point, and

also would examine the condition and bearing of the unsightly incumbrances to the north and south arches of the tower, having frequently observed in that facing the Consistory Court, cracks which seemed to me to increase; and feeling confident that the operation of those masses of stone was calculated to do harm rather than good, whilst they destroyed the beauty and symmetry of the splendid arches which they blocked up. Mr. Cottingham's first care was to ascertain the actual state of the vaulting itself, immediately to the east of the Choir, and here it did not appear that any material defect existed; his attention was then attracted by the peculiar sweep of the base on which the columns below stood, and by the indication of a continuation of the decorated masonry behind the rough walls from which the arch springs on either side. It was impossible not to be struck with the corresponding traces of Norman mouldings which were just perceptible here and there above the Grecian screen, and between it and the painted boards representing curtains above, whilst on traversing the clerestory gallery, the remains of Norman ornaments were everywhere to be found, and the gallery itself, as I had before pointed out, was still existent at each side, returned behind the wooden coverings, up to the splays of the eastern windows, near to which was a pair of small perforated arches, of the same style with those on the north and south sides.— It was not difficult to perceive from the iron braces and ties which extended on either side, the whole length of the

clerestory range, that some danger or dislocation had either existed or was apprehended at an earlier period; and it was thought fit to complete the survey of this part by the removal of the whole incongruous covering of the east end of the choir, represented in its then form in plate 6. I am aware that it has been thought by some that more of the Cathedral has been dismantled than was necessary. To the casual observer, or those who derive their information through circuitous channels, or who measure the requirements of the Temple of God upon the same principles as they regard the reparation of their barns, it might possibly seem so; but not to insist on considerations, which must ever be paramount in importance in the believer's mind, I may venture to affirm, with the intimate knowledge I have been enabled to acquire, of facts, the ocular demonstration I have obtained, the minute and personal investigation I have made of every part, that it is my firm conviction that it ought to be regarded as providential, that the examination which was instituted in the Lady Chapel did not terminate there.—I cannot divest my mind of the impression, that it has probably been the means, I say not merely of developing the most grand and beautiful design and composition which can be found in any ecclesiastical structure, but of preventing the most disastrous ruin—the most awful sacrifice of human life. How long matters might have gone on, and we have supposed that all was secure, I pretend not to guess,—there would have been no warning,—

there was the swelling out in the high wall, whose bursting cometh suddenly at the instant. Once before, in this same Cathedral has a tower fallen, when practical masons had but a little while before pronounced it safe! The second, from its position, might probably have been more fatal; must have been far more destructive to the goodly fabric which surrounds it. The removal of the Grecian oak screen at the altar end of the choir proved these facts:—that those who had erected it, had removed in four places the ashlar of the walls, into the very core, to make room for the recesses in the screen, and had left the walls in those places without support; it also proved that the scenic decoration at the top, the painted boards to represent curtains, (what an adornment for a Cathedral Church!) were partially loosened from the wedges which had been driven to fix them to, and to strain the joints of the masonry, and that the wooden imitations of tassels which hung immediately over the heads of the ministering priests, as often as they officiated at the altar, were suspended on a rusty nail by small twine, little better than packthread. To such as have been accustomed to view this portion of the Cathedral of Hereford in its debased and disguised form, the change which was effected by this removal of such heterogeneous appendages is most striking, and the mutilated string courses and their broken shafts, the wrecks of former beauty and appropriate order are, even if it were impracticable to restore them, infinitely preferable to those incongruities which

have been happily removed. It appears that long before the introduction of the Grecian screen in 1717, the original arrangement had been disturbed by the introduction of a perpendicular window, to support which, the low circular arch in the centre had been constructed; on either side of this window were now to be seen the mouldings and featherings of the original early decorated lights, on a level and in communication with the lateral clerestory range; below these the Norman arcade, based upon a string course of nebule ornaments, and these sufficiently preserved to afford accurate patterns for exact restoration; but below, the beauty of beauties was to be traced—the thickness of that part of the wall is eight feet; on either side of the arch, twenty-four feet in span, were portions of shafts, corresponding with the pair of Norman shafts exposed to view seven years ago,—the bases of these standing on a sort of plinth, which was continued through those already referred to, as well as the capitals, of most curious detail, were perfect, and upon them were visible as far as the level of the window above, the remaining stones which formed the architrave of the exterior arch, from which it was evident that its crown must have risen to the height of thirty feet. By cautious examination of the parts walled up, it was discovered that the capitals were all perfect, and that this exquisite and grand construction, the mutilation and concealment of which it is utterly impossible to account for, was in fact made up of five arches, the interior and smallest

supported by the two semi columns already described, and each of the others increasing in span as it approached the front upon square and circular shafts alternately, the faces of each arch being beautifully decorated with the choicest Norman ornaments. Of the four lateral arches, the two first had been not only hid by the oak panelling of the screen, but were also, like the two others closed up with lath and plaster, as the central arch; and when these incumbrances and desecrations were taken away, it is impossible to describe adequately the glorious effect produced, rendered more solemn and impressive by the appearance of the ancient monuments of Bishops Reynelm, Mayew, Stanbury, and Benet, whose ashes rest beneath these massive arches, of which, together with the noble triforium above, before the conquest, Athelstan had probably been the founder, and the former of those just mentioned, the completer and restorer after that era. These investigations having been effected and the rubbish cleared away, preparations were made for resuming the service of the choir; on Sunday, the sixteenth of May, it was accordingly performed, and it was especially remarked that the effect of the voice of the priest at the altar, and of the organ and choristers, was never before heard by any present to such striking advantage, whilst the general temperature of the Cathedral was exceedingly improved—the closeness in some parts, and the sudden currents of air in others, which had before been complained of, having been completely removed.

At this time a scaffolding had been erected in the south transept for the purpose of examining, according to my request, the unsightly mass of masonry under the arches of the tower,—so far as it had proceeded, it had completely verified the predictions which had been made, that they did no service to the fabric, but rather injury; the mortar had been removed just enough to ascertain that between the top of the mass and the soffit of the arch a lath might be passed, proving that it had no bearing there: in the subsequent week, the cracks in the plaster were opened and the whole covering removed, but mortar and whitewash, though apparently considered by some to be panaceas for all defects, had proved most deceptive and fallacious, the real state of things which they concealed in this part was truly formidable,—the entire mass of stone work had by its own weight and subsidence cracked and crushed itself, the oxeye masonry in the centre had hardly a stone whole in its entire construction, and the weight pressing, as its very form caused it to do, on the sides, tended to thrust them out, and actually opened the joints in the crowns of the arches,—this was the state of things in the arches both of the north and south transepts; but the vaulting which had been introduced, as appears by the mouldings, about the year 1450, prevented further examination from below, sufficient was there to be seen to make it evident that the service of the choir must at once be discontinued, though so recently resumed, in the ignorant confidence

that all which remained to be done was the investigation and perhaps, (as it was hoped,) the ultimate removal of the useless and ugly piers, and their ponderous superstructure,—and that the fissures and dislocations of the masonry must be probed and scrutinized to the utmost. To this end, the construction of the upper portion of the tower came next under examination, this is very peculiar,—above the floor of the belfry, which rested on the centre of the vaulting already mentioned, and rising from a plain Gothic moulding, is a range of fifty-two massive stone columns, behind which is a passage as high as the whole extent of their altitude, at least twenty-five or thirty feet—at each angle of the tower where a course of stone serving as a bond to these columns was introduced, and at their summits, a drawing off from their bearings was perceptible, and in one particular angle at some height above, the fissure is so extensive as to show the light completely through, the wall being at that part, of the thickness of the columns, passage, and exterior wall. The string course upon which the bases of the columns rest was observed, and especially at each corner, to have been flushed or split off in many places,—the floor of the belfry was then taken up, and it was discovered that the pockets formed by the walls of the tower and the vaulting were filled up with a sort of rubbish of a peculiar description, resembling oakum, placed there perhaps for the purpose of counteracting vibration, two hundred and fifty cart loads of this were removed,

and in it were found two or three small crucifixes, and some very curious fragments of carvings in alabaster, the remnants of some very gorgeous and elaborate shrine of the middle of the fourteenth century. But the discovery now made in the condition of the fabric at this point was absolutely appalling! At each angle immediately below the Gothic string course, were four apertures running diagonally through the walls, so as to admit the light from the exterior, and as much as two feet and a half in diameter; the double columns at the angles immediately over these had crushed and fractured the intervening stones and hence the drawing off above,—and the entire masonry on each side appeared in the most shattered condition, the stones not only drawn off from each other, displaying apertures two or three inches wide, but fissures running vertically down through the stones, which had been split and fractured through their entire substance, and these fissures and dislocations were not superficial, but actually passed through the main substance of the walls, the bond and core of which were in a state of disintegration, disclosing correspondent fissures on the other sides. The next care was to follow their course in the main piers which support the central tower, the weight of which above their capitals must be at least seven thousand tons. The required scaffolding being erected, the necessary clearance of the plaster was effected, when it was too evident that in every one of the piers these fissures, of the same alarming vertical character,

were in existence, and arising from the same causes,—the enormous superincumbent pressure on legs or piers, which were not sufficiently substantial to endure the weight. In prosecuting this painful investigation some very remarkable observations were necessarily made—it appeared that each of the piers had for the most part at some period of no recent date, been not only refaced, but that the north west pier in particular had been bolstered up in a singular manner, with strips of stone cramped against it by iron ties, with the grain or bed of the stone laid perpendicularly, in the manner of splints on a man's broken leg, and that, for this purpose, the original Norman semi-columns had been cut off, or in some instances built over, as seen in plate 8. Upon examining a portion of this pier, represented in plate 10, one of the workmen had occasion to remove a stone, and there came from the opening so caused such a rush of dust-like matter and rubbish, evidently the crushed mortar and grouting which formed the core or interior of the column, now reduced to the condition of sand, as proved that all cohesive quality in its composition was gone; and that a part at least of this pier stood upon its outer casing, or ashlar, and had no support from its inner filling up, by the copious discharge of which, a vacuum of considerable extent must have been formed. The conviction thus forced upon the mind was extremely awful! it was impossible to foresee what might be the extent or the consequence of this state of things,—and my first care was to prevent as much as

possible, danger to those who might be passing from time to time very near to the spot, by causing barriers to be placed at each extremity of the walk through the Cathedral yard, and directing shores, the most effectual that our present means could supply, to be applied with as little delay as possible.—The Architect at this startling discovery was so affected, by the apprehension that this beautiful and majestic tower, and with it the whole surrounding fabric, might be beyond the power of human skill to save, that, without affectation I firmly believe, he could not refrain from tears. It was more than ever important that the piers should be thoroughly examined, even to the foundation,—that they had materially subsided, was evident from the dragging down of the lateral portions of the choir and transept walls. Was this from defect of foundation, or the soil on which that foundation was built? Excavations were made to ascertain this—one continued line of foundation, eight feet wide, runs from east to west on either side throughout the nave and choir, and on this the piers are built,—it is laid on a compact stratum of gravel, and to this hour the actual cause of the inferior sinking of these piers, as well as other portions of the building, is undetermined beyond mere conjecture. But here let me advert to a charge which has been brought against us for removing needlessly, as it is asserted, the stalls, the organ, and the organ screen.—If any of those who may be so disposed to blame had seen the state of that pier which has been described, if he had conceived it

"now the honor of reporting, I have carefully examined the "construction of the four great piers which support the tower; "they are of Norman workmanship, and sufficient in bulk to "carry a much greater weight than the present tower, had the "masonry been more carefully constructed; they consist of a "series of semicircular columns attached to a thin ashlar casing "which surrounds the piers, and the chambers or cavities "within are filled with a rubble core, composed of broken "stones, loam and lime grouting; this was undoubtedly suf- "ficient to carry a low Norman tower, but when the great "Early English shaft was added on the top of this work, the "pressure became too great for such kind of masonry to bear. "The ashlar and semi-columns, not being well bonded and "deeply headed into the rubble cores, split and bulged, and "the cores for want of a proper proportion of lime, diminished "and crushed to pieces. To remedy these defects, a second "facing of ashlar has been attached to the piers, in some "places by cutting out a part of the old ashlar, and in others "by merely fixing long slips of stone round the pier with iron "plugs, run in with lead—these most unsightly excrescences "have destroyed the beauty of the original design, without "adding any strength to the masonry. The same unskilful "hands blocked up all the original Norman arches, except one, "connected with the tower piers, and communicating with the "aisles, choir, and transepts, leaving only a small passage way "in each. The first triforium arches in the choir and east

"side of the south transept abutting against the tower, have "also been closed up with masonry, so as to leave scarcely a "trace of the rich work which lies concealed behind it. These "injudicious performances have tended to weaken instead of "strengthen the tower. The interior walls above the main "arches of the tower, up to the bases of the fifty-two pillars "which surround the bell ringers' chamber, are in a very ruin- "ous state, particularly at the four angles, where rude cavities, "running in a diagonal direction, have been made large enough "for a man to creep in,—these unaccountable holes have "tended very much to increase the danger, as all the masonry "connected with them is drawn off its bond, and many of the "stones shivered to pieces by the enormous pressure above.— "The stone work, also, above the pillars, is drawn off at the "angles just below the timber work of the bell floor.—On the "whole, I never witnessed a more awful monument of the "fallibility of human skill than the tower of Hereford Cathedral "at this moment presents. I am of opinion, that it is in a "state of extreme danger, and that not a day should be lost "in endeavouring to give such support to it, as will enable "the masons to reinstate the defective parts, with security to "their lives and limbs, as well as the fabric." Then follows the recommendation of the process to be adopted in the requisite preliminary precautions, and those portions of the works which it would be incurring a risk to delay.

At this period, in addition to the report of the Architect,

the Chapter were favoured with the kind and considerate recommendation of the Bishop, that they should avail themselves of the opinion of Professor Willis, of Cambridge. Without distrust in the skill to which they had already confided the enquiry into the malady which so grievously affected an object so valuable and so cherished, it was felt that at any risk of that kind, it was but an act of duty to secure the best advice, and especially when the Bishop himself had, by his intercession with the Professor, secured an opportunity of possessing such important aid; mere considerations of ceremony in desperate cases it would be worse than folly to regard, and his proffered services were thankfully accepted. His scrutiny had been most minute, his scientific examination was applied to every particular, and the labour he devoted to it most indefatigable.—I hold in my hand his elaborate report, which I wish the time would allow me to read throughout. No mere extracts could adequately convey a notion of its value, or a sense of its importance; but I must at present confine myself to the use of the following brief notice of two portions, referring to the general state of the tower, and corroborating essentially Mr. Cottingham's report; premising however that the whole document shall be open to the perusal of any who may interest themselves in the subject enough to enter into its minutiæ.* The Professor observes—"Besides these appearances (referring

* This Report has since been printed, with the diagrams and their description.

"to the subsidence of the piers,) the masonry of the spandrels, "that is, of the walls included between the Norman arches "below, and the string course above, is in a frightful state of "dislocation; for the change of form in the arches has twisted "and fractured the stones in all directions, besides drawing "them asunder so as to open the joints in many places to the "extent of two inches or more. The rubble work in the heart "of the wall has lost all cohesion." And again,—"It is evi- "dent that the dislocation of this old work had proceeded so "far as to destroy the cohesion of the walls, and allow crush- "ing of the stone work to begin, which has proceeded and "probably continued from time to time, up to the present; "and has now reached such an extent as to make a thorough "repair and renewal of the ashlaring of this portion of the "walls necessary to prevent the entire ruin of the tower."— In consequence of this unequivocal and concurrent evidence of the lamentable and fearful state of the building, the Chapter did not feel justified in waiting for the result of that appeal which they already presaged would be absolutely necessary; it was true that many of the measures recommended by the Architect, were included in the estimates of the general works; but it was clear to demonstration that promptitude was required, and that upon their decision might the most frightful consequences depend. It was confidently felt, that in placing the venerable and majestic tower in the best state of comparative security in their power, they would not be weakening the

grounds of their appeal for aid, but rather strengthening them; and although they were required to advance about £1200 for works which, supposing the succour hoped for to be afforded, should be comprised in the general outlay, yet they were assured that no advantage would be taken of such an act of disinterested, though perhaps, imperative duty. Orders were therefore issued for a succession of double oak wedges to be fixed between all the fifty-two stone columns in the belfry chamber, above the main arches of the tower; for struts and shores to be fixed between and around the piers, to prevent as far as possible their bulging or crushing; that the diagonal apertures in the angles of the tower, which it is difficult to account for, except it may be, that they received the supports of the timbers of a wooden spire, which once crowned the tower, and which was taken down since the fall of the western tower in 1786, should be carefully filled up with solid masonry, and iron ties with powerful double screws applied so as to clip or band together, that part which manifested the greatest weakness; of these expedients some have been already accomplished, and others are at this time in progress.

I may here be permitted to digress for a short season, to allude to an interesting discovery made amongst the ancient documents belonging to the Cathedral; and which tends to throw considerable light on the history of the tower, and the cause of its failure. Mr. R. Biddulph Phillipps, had kindly undertaken in his well known love of Antiquarian research,

to assist in examining and arranging the numerous, but unsorted and confused heaps of grants and charters, which for many years had never seen the light: amongst these he chanced to find a parchment, bearing two beautiful Episcopal seals of Bishops, of Sarum, Roger le Poer, and Hereford, Adam de Orleton, acknowledging and confirming the grant of the great tithes of Shenyngfeld and Swalefeld, to the sustentation of the fabric of the Church of Hereford, by the Bull of Pope John XXII., 1319. It seems that the Dean and Chapter had petitioned the Pope on the following grounds:—that "they being desirous of re-building a portion of the fabric of the Church of Hereford, had caused much superstructure of sumptuous work to be built, to the adornment of the House of God, upon an ancient foundation; which, in the judgment of masons or Architects who were considered skilful in their art, was thought to be firm and sound, at the cost of 20,000 marcs sterling and more, and that on account of the weakness of the aforesaid foundation, the building which was placed upon it now, threatened such ruin, that by a similar judgment, no other remedy could be applied short of an entire renovation of the fabric from the foundation,—which, on account of the expenses incurred in prosecution of the canonization of Thomas de Cantilupe, Bishop of Hereford, of blessed memory, they were unable to undertake."* Upon which the said tithes were appropriated to the sustentation of the fabric of the Cathedral

* See Appendix.

Church, and they form to this day the fabric fund. It is perfectly evident then, that the sumptuous work alluded to in this Bull was the central tower and the north transept; which latter was built for the purpose of receiving the remains and the shrine of Bishop Thomas de Cantilupe; the translation of which took place, from the Lady Chapel where they had first been deposited, a short time after. The document is very satisfactory as an evidence that great commotion and alarm were caused by the indications of failure in the structure soon after its erection; and other documents* since discovered fortify the same opinion, and shew that for a long period great precautions and reparations were necessary.

It is very remarkable that the Norman string course as seen above the main arches of the tower, see plate 8, is six inches lower in the centre than at the angles of the tower, but the first layer or course of stone above this, is accommodated to this dip, and its upper surface is level,—proving that before the superstructure was built, a settlement and sinking of the arch had taken place, and that the new work commenced from thence. The failures which led to the petition to Rome are easily to be traced; each of the piers of the tower have been either recased with ashlar, or, as in most instances, bolstered up with masses of masonry, whilst in the north west pier the greater part of the face of the whole has been spliced as it were with slips of stone set end ways, and attached to the

* See Appendix.

column by iron cramps leaded in. On either side of the choir in the clerestory range, the arches have been thrust towards the east, below the triforium has been walled up, and all the lateral arches on the lower range to the east, on both sides of the choir, and to the north east, north west, and south west in the transepts, have been treated in the self same manner. The crushing, however, appears to have proceeded to such an extent in the portions of the nave immediately abutting on the piers of the tower, that a most decided process was deemed requisite, as remarkable as it is unique,—the first arch on the south side of the nave was entirely removed, and in its stead an equilateral pointed arch was inserted, the semicircular pier on the east side being converted to a flattened pilaster, and the western spring of the arch resting upon the ancient Norman capital and massive circular column; on the opposite or north side, the ancient arch excepting the architrave, the face of which, ornamented with the zigzag mouldings had been chipped off, all but a small portion was removed, see plate 11; and in its place a new arch with four hollows had been substituted, which were filled with the prevailing ornament of the tower, the ball flower,—marking the period of the alteration; whilst the north arch in the wall of the transept, the columns and capitals of which were suffered to remain, though thrust out of their perpendicular position and broken and crippled fearfully, was filled up with new stone very plainly wrought, and introduced under the old zigzagged arch, which on removing

the coating of plaster was yet visible, see plate 10,—and the whole aperture excepting a small door-way filled up with substantial masonry, which, as if to bear the date of its execution, carried a string course in the line of the capitals, ornamented with the same ball flower. At what precise period the unsightly contrivance for propping, as was erroneously supposed, the north and south arches of the tower was adopted it may be difficult to decide, but it is not improbable that this was an expedient resorted to when the preceding devices had failed to effect the arrest of symptoms of settlement; and it is evident from documents, the existence of which has been subsequently discovered, that indulgencies and briefs, and various engagements of masons were resorted to, from the time of the issue of the Bull of Pope John XXII., in 1319, to 1360–4, when John de Evesham and Thomas de Cantabrag entered into indentures for doing the works of the fabric.

I have now (very imperfectly I am too well aware,) conducted you through the general progress of the investigation and discovery of the defects and dilapidations of the building. If I have made myself sufficiently intelligible, (and if not, I am ready to answer any inquiries with which I may be favoured,) I will now advance to the second division of the subject which I proposed to explain, namely,—the extent of the restoration, for which plans have been obtained, and are now exhibited before you. But, before I enter upon this task it will doubtless be more satisfactory to the meeting to learn

somewhat of the ability of the Architect who has supplied those plans. The name of Mr. Cottingham, indeed, stands justly high in the estimation of those who have had opportunities of observing his accurate restorations and splendid designs; his sound taste in ecclesiastical Architecture, and the powerful resources of his skill as a practical engineer.—That very celebrity which he had acquired, is in itself, an unquestionable guarantee for soundness, and attention in the prosecution of works, which if properly executed, must greatly augment and extend his fame, whilst failure from incapacity or inattention, from want of taste, or prudent foresight, from excess of expenditure, or from whatever cause, must subvert and dissipate all the credit which he had purchased by a successful and devoted career, crowned by eminent success and honourable distinction in his profession. But not to depend merely on fame, I determined when Mr. Cottingham was first called in, personally to investigate to the best of my ability how far the report of his skill and talent might be depended upon. I had seen an interesting account of the restoration of Armagh Cathedral, which had been in some respects, especially in regard to its tower, in a state similar to our own,—I, therefore, ventured to wait on his Grace the Primate of Ireland, who most kindly satisfied my inquiries, and informed me of the circumstances of that Cathedral.—At the Cathedral at Rochester, about £7,000 had been devoted to its restoration, under the direction of Mr. Cottingham,

and I took the opportunity of conferring with one of the Canons of that Church on the subject.—The restoration of Magdalen College Chapel, at Oxford, and Saint Alban's Abbey, had been effected under the same supervision; one estimate for the latter of which amounted to £15,000, and Mr. Cottingham accomplished it for £4,500,—both of these I had seen and made the objects of minute inquiries. But it will be more to the point if I lay before you documents rather than my own words, from which you may derive conclusive testimony.

"I do hereby certify that I employed L. N. Cottingham, Esq. of Waterloo Bridge, to restore the Cathedral of Armagh, which had been much dilapidated by time and violence, and that I had much reason to be satisfied with the judgment, skill, and good taste which he displayed in executing the work. He had many difficulties to contend against, all of which he surmounted by his ability and resources. The working drawings were designed with so great accuracy, that every stone was found to fit the place which it was intended to occupy; nor did a single accident occur during the whole progress of the work, or a labourer or mechanic experience the slightest hurt or injury. I make this statement at the desire of Mr. Cottingham, and in justice to his merit as an architect." JOHN G. ARMAGH.

Armagh, December 7, 1841.

To the Bishop of Hereford.

December 4th, 1841.

My Lord,—In compliance with the request of Mr. Cottingham, architect, I have to state, that some years ago the Abbey of St. Alban's fell into a state of dangerous decay, and that those interested in its preservation formed a Committee for the purpose of carrying on the necessary repair. Of this Committee I was appointed Chairman. We had many plans and estimates laid before us, and those of Mr. Cottingham not only appeared to us the best suited to insure the future stability of the building, but were infinitely less expensive than any of those produced. We adopted them accordingly, and the whole enormous pile of building was placed in the most satisfactory state of repair, under his directions, and I have every reason to think will continue for many years to be an object of great admiration, without a further outlay being required.

All that Mr. Cottingham did has fully answered the expectations of the gentlemen who employed him, and I can with confidence recommend him to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

VERULAM.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hereford.

[COPY.]

At an Assembly of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, held 30th November, 1827, *it was*

RESOLVED,—That the sum of one hundred guineas be presented to Mr. Cottingham, in testimony of the high sense which the Dean and Chapter entertain of the distinguished ability which he has shown in planning the restoration of their Cathedral, and for his unwearied zeal and fidelity in carrying the same into effect.

(A true copy.)

EDWARD TWOPENNY, Chapter Clerk.

7, Bedford Square, Dec. 6, 1841.

MY DEAR MR. DEAN,—Mr. Cottingham has asked me to submit to the Dean and Chapter of Hereford such testimonial of his professional skill as my own experience of it might justify me in supplying. I could not presume to address the Dean and Chapter formally; but I hope that I may be permitted to convey to yourself—and, if you should think fit, through you to your Chapter—my sense of his merits.

It would be ludicrous, indeed, to compare what he has been doing for us, in our little village church, with what he desires to do in your great and venerable Cathedral; but still, in what he did for us, we could distinguish his knowledge, his skill, and his zeal. He had to restore a small Norman Church; this, though the walls were little more than rubble, he did

effectually. He had to build for us, *de novo*, a tower; this he appears to have done substantially, as well as with taste. All my personal communications with him were also, it is right to add, most satisfactory, and his charges were very reasonable.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Dean,

Most faithfully yours,

ROBERT H. INGLIS.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford.

Treasurer's Office, Inner Temple,

15th Sept. 1840.

SIR,—I am directed by the joint Committee of the two Societies of the Inner and Middle Temple, to request you will at your earliest convenience inspect the repairs, &c. now in progress at the Temple Church, and generally to examine the whole fabric of the building, and make a full report to them upon the state in which you may find it. And, that in such report you will have the goodness to state your opinion whether there was, from the condition in which it may appear to you, any immediate necessity or otherwise of the present repairs and restorations being at this time carried into effect.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

EDW. H. MARTIN, Sub Treasurer.

L. N. Cottingham, Esq.

Treasurer's Office, Inner Temple,

22nd Sept. 1840.

SIR,—I am directed by the joint Committee of the two Societies of the Inner and Middle Temple, to request you will have the goodness to inform them in your report upon the state of the Temple Church, how far the present dilapidated state of the building could or could not have been known until the work now in progress had proceeded so far as it now is. And also, that you will examine and report how far the works carried on in 1826 and 1827, had contributed to the actual repair, restoration, and stability of the building, or whether those works were only of a temporary nature. Likewise, you will be good enough to state in your report, whether the drainage recently made at the north side of the Church, was a work positively necessary in order to render the Church dry, and the vicinity of it wholesome.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDW. H. MARTIN, Sub Treasurer.

L. N. Cottingham, Esq. &c. &c.

47, Wimpole Street, 11th Dec.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, I am most ready to bear my testimony in favour of Mr. Cottingham, of whose talent and skill, by experience, I have a very high opinion. He was consulted by the Committee of the Inner and Middle Temple, as to the restoration and reparation. I have no reason to complain of him; and the proof that he does not merit any censure is, that the restoration and reparation contemplated by him are now, for the most part, in prosecution. The excess in the expenditure beyond that which we were led by the architect we then employed to believe would be incurred, has been a subject of great complaint by us; but I have no reason for believing that Mr. Cottingham had any part in misleading us.

I can say, that I have not any cause of complaint whatever against Mr. Cottingham, and I have no reason whatever for believing that there was any cause of complaint against him in relation to the restoration of the Temple Church.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BURGE.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford.

(See also Appendix.)

With reference to the three last, I would briefly remark, that it had been unjustly asserted that Mr. Cottingham had

been employed at the Temple Church, in London, on which a sum greatly exceeding the estimate had been already expended, and that he had been the cause of such excess. This was not the case, the expenditure had indeed been enormous, but Mr. Cottingham was not responsible for the cost of one shilling of it. He had been called in to survey what had been already done, and to give his opinion on it, and on the propriety of its completion upon the plans supplied, &c., but he is not responsible for the placing, or the decoration, of a single stone.

But to return to the plans proposed for the restoration of our Church.—The Lady Chapel had been the first part which attracted attention, but the alarming state of the tower diverted all attention from each minor point; and to this therefore, in the first instance, I will direct your regard—whatever may be, however, the portion to be considered, the object I trust will be, and such the plans design, to effect a sound and complete restoration of the architectural features of each part; this principle, I earnestly hope, will be the polar star, which will guide us in all we have to do. Restoration is the grand object to be achieved—not mending and patching, too much of that has indeed already been permitted, and to that mode of proceeding is much of the present difficulty to be attributed. I earnestly entreat that restoration may be regarded as the one thing to be sought, sound and legitimate restoration, for which there is sufficient authority, if not in this particular Church, (and I rejoice to say that the points of deficiency in

this respect are very few indeed,) in others of the same character and period.

To begin then with the tower.—The first object would be, having braced the exterior by the iron ties and screws already alluded to, and filled up the cavities in the spandrels with solid masonry, and the contiguous portions of the walls with renewed ashlar, to place a flat ceiling of transition style, analogous to that of the fifty-two columns, immediately above them,—the construction of which would afford important support to that part of the tower which had partaken of the disturbance of the structure below, and displayed very formidable cracks and fissures. It had indeed been objected that it was not the intention of the Architect of 1300, when those columns were erected, that they should be seen from below, and I must admit that there does appear to be some reason to acquiesce in such a supposition, which is supported by the influential weight of Mr. Professor Willis's opinion; but on the other hand, it must not be forgotten, that the central towers of early date, and indeed to the latest times of sound architectural taste, had a clerestory or lantern above their main arches, as at St. Alban's and Winchester, which correspond in style with that of Hereford as it was:—this was evidently taken down to make room for the noble but too ponderous structure which was to re-place it, and it is difficult to reconcile to the known practice of the time, the notion that they threw in a low Norman ceiling, to the exclusion from view of the peculiar but

imposing effect which they had produced above, certainly with the purpose of relieving the walls and piers of weight, but not therefore, of necessity, with the intention of concealment. But it will be argued, that there are yet to be seen in the third course of stone above the Norman string course, apertures equidistant and partially filled with tufa which shew the level of a ceiling, (not the ancient Norman ceiling, because the evidence that the ashlar was taken down to the Norman nebule string course below, is conclusive) and therefore of the ceiling there placed, on occasion of the alterations of 1300. But I imagine that it admits of more than a doubt whether these were not mere putlock holes, subsequently used, possibly at the erection of the vault, which was an innovation of no earlier date certainly than the middle of the fifteenth century, and having no connection whatever either with the original design or that of 1300. This vault it is necessary to remove, in order to effect the substantial restoration of the piers, on which it injuriously rests by its corbels, and the cost of replacing it would be £500, which its debased and incongruous style and oppressive weight, would render both inexpedient and undesirable. It is proposed, therefore, to place a ceiling of wood, corresponding with the character of the tower, immediately above the fifty-two columns, which will then be seen as a gigantic lantern from the choir, nave, and transepts; and should this arrangement be found objectionable, it will be easy to supply a Norman ceiling below these columns should it be

so determined,—but the principal reason for this proceeding is, that it may act, by the ties and braces with which it is connected, as a bond and support to that part of the tower, which has been strained and drawn off from its due bearing by the mischief below, and which, even if the ceiling should not be there erected, must of necessity be supplied. This being fixed, the vault or groining would then be removed, and subsequently, the ashlar of the four walls on either side of the tower renewed with the greatest care, duly bonded and grouted, which, with the aid of the iron ties and tightening screws already in progress, will make that portion as firm as the resources of human contrivance can achieve. The main arches will next demand attention, the joints and cracks will be carefully cleared and filled with a cement which will render them sound and substantial; and afterwards, each pier in succession will undergo the delicate and cautious process of underpinning, so as to be made in fact completely new, both as respects the ashlar and the core, wherever the latter is defective, as indeed it will probably be found to be to a most surprising and appalling degree,—I venture to say that these piers will be made completely new. I am aware that it has been asserted, although I cannot coincide in the opinion, that at least one of them is safe and may stand as it is,—I will admit for the moment that it may be so, but surely it would be a thousand pities, when the estimate is calculated to cover the entire restoration of their beautiful and majestic Norman character,

according with the noble arches they bear, to suffer them to be merely repaired as they are, which, be it remembered, would probably be no saving of expense, and not to rid them of those stone hangings and casing which now encumber them, obliterate their shafts and ornaments, and bespeak a clumsy, if not parsimonious, patching up of that which is truly worthy of admiration, and ought to elicit a generous zeal for the restoration of its pristine symmetry and perfection. I can have no doubt as to the most prudent course, even if mere expediency alone were to be regarded, much less as to that which the requirements of an enlightened taste would demand, whatever difference of opinion might exist as to positive necessity; a reference to the drawings of these piers as they are at present, and as they would appear when restored to their original features, would at once decide the question. (See plates 8 and 9.) When this result has been secured, the removal of the central pillars and their cumbrous and unsightly imposts, will be a matter of course, and in no respect of the smallest risk.

I will next direct your attention to the east end of the choir.—Its original composition was so remarkable after the discoveries which were made by the removal of the Grecian oak screen, its urns and painted drapery already described, that it was deemed worthy of some sacrifice to procure an accurate lithograph of it—in this, as well as in the drawings of the Architect, which have been made in precise accordance

with the remains developed, and there is in each portion sufficient remaining to ensure accuracy of restoration, the most striking effect is produced; it is impossible to conceive a design more worthy of admiration, and I believe the kingdom does not contain a specimen of a Norman arch of so splendid a character: the contrast, between this and the innovations which it is hoped it will supersede, is as decided as anything can be conceived to produce, and wonder is the necessary consequence of the comparison, (see plates 6 and 7) at the extraordinary infatuation which had produced the unaccountable exchange of sound architectural composition of the highest order, for the most paltry and inappropriate incumbrance. The painted window which now occupies the centre of this end of the choir, was introduced about the year 1823, under the auspices of Dr. Carr, then Dean, since Bishop of Worcester, and I must in justice remark that, however out of strict taste such a painting must be considered in such a situation and in such an edifice, he was by no means responsible for the introduction of the perpendicular window which contains that painted glass, on which more than £2,000 were expended. By the realization of these designs not only will this portion of the Cathedral present on either side three beautiful Norman arches, with their superincumbent triforium of correspondent character, and the Early English clerestory; but the beauty of the eastern features just described will be greatly increased in interest by the view which will be obtained through the central arch, of the exqui-

site east windows of the Lady Chapel; for which sufficient ancient glass of good character has been preserved,—these will be seen in the distance over or through a screen of Norman character, which (if not altogether in strict accordance with ancient precedent,) may be considered necessary, as a division of the choir from the passage at the back of the altar; it will be somewhat more elevated than that represented in the lithograph, and will be filled in with plate glass for obvious reasons. Unfortunately, very many of the shafts supporting the arches, as well as the string courses on either side have been chipped off and must be restored; and this portion of the works will require a heavy outlay, but it must not be considered as a mere matter of decoration, though to a great extent it is so, (and what part of the sacred edifice can be more deserving of regard?) but in several parts so much injury has been caused to the walls, by the reckless driving of plugs to fix the panels, and the breaking down of the ashlar to make room for the recesses in the Grecian screen, that the security and soundness of those portions absolutely require an extensive renovation.—Whether the magnificent central arch, or the arcade above, or the lateral and triforium arches, of the Norman style, or the clerestory range both on the sides and at the end of the choir, of the Early English, remarkable for their rich but chaste design, are regarded, it is impossible to conceive, either in detail or in general effect, a more splendid structure,—and whenever that justice is done to it which the drawings and plans point

out, it will give to Hereford Cathedral a gem of architectural rarity, which cannot be rivalled by any other existing edifice. The floor of this part of the Cathedral, as well as of the choir, it is proposed to lay with encaustic tiles now manufactured in exact imitation of the ancient patterns, and the effect of these it is unnecessary to observe is exceedingly rich. The choir itself will be refitted with the original and beautifully carved stalls, but the miserable square panelled pews will be discarded, and seats of the ancient model with the Gothic ends surmounted with appropriate finials will be substituted,—a new pulpit and litany desk will be provided of the same character; the organ will not be placed as before, under the central arch between the choir and nave, to interrupt the range of view throughout the building, but probably in the south transept arch; and the separation of the choir from the nave will be effected by a screen of Norman character, accordant with the features of the nave, which it will face.

I now pass on to the Lady Chapel.—The exterior of the east end, with the buttresses and pinnacles at the south east and north east angles, must be entirely restored; the insulated columns have been either suffered to fall down, or were removed by Mr. Wyatt in his general operations in this Cathedral at the commencement of this century, when he lowered the pitch of all the roofs, and especially of the gable of the Lady Chapel, thereby obliterating an elegant circular window in the pediment, and substituting for the Early English

coping, a raking battlement,—this it is proposed to remove, and to restore the former, at least as fully as the depressed range of the roof will allow, see plate 2, and to re-construct the whole of the eastern exterior with its ornaments.—The entire of the interior, including the beautiful arches opened in the anti-chapel, will be restored with the utmost accuracy, the entrance to the crypt will be guarded by its proper fence—the reduction of the floor of the entrance to its original level will be effected, and the denuding of the whole of the coats of whitewash which clog up and disfigure the sharpness of its sculpture,—and the reparation of the piscina canopy, will be included; the whole of that most interesting and unique chapel will be at length treated in that manner which its symmetry and its exquisite beauty deserve, for it is one of the most perfect specimens of English Architecture.

I may here be allowed to advert to the order in which it is proposed to execute these works, for it has been suggested that a division into several portions would be advisable. It will hardly be disputed that if the state of the tower is such as has been described, it would not be safe to postpone that which might destroy all which could be done in any other part. It is true that some are found who dispute that assertion, but I cannot think that any steady and dispassionate consideration can avoid the decision that the tower must first be secured; my own opinion then pointed to the east end of the choir as the next point of operation, but not without first

securing by adequate shores the safety of the bulging walls of the Lady Chapel, I have however found that this process is objected to,—my reason for advocating it was simply because it seemed most likely to conduce to the earlier resumption of divine service in our sanctuary,—an object, as this place is situated, of no light importance, whilst it would save the removing to and fro of scaffolding and various implements of masonry, which would be attended with increase of expense, and loss of time. But I have no other motive than the public good, and although my opinion is not hastily formed, but based upon an intimate acquaintance and anxious study of existing circumstances, it is to be considered as my mere insulated opinion, and I am quite content that, as such, it should be rejected; my main object, my anxious wish is to secure the sound, substantial, and appropriate RESTORATION of the three portions of the Cathedral described, and provided that object can be secured you may rest assured that no mere opinion of mine, no regard to individual consideration, or personal convenience, shall for one moment stand in the way of the most desirable and approved course of proceeding.

I now turn to the third point proposed to be laid before the meeting, viz., the cost which the works detailed would incur.

1st. The restoration of the tower and Norman arches abutting on the same, according to drawings and specifications, including ceiling, iron ties, screws, and other braces £5,719

2nd. Repairing and restoring sixteen bell chamber windows, carrying down the eight blank windows and centre panels over the roof to the same level, so as to obviate the unsightly appearance of the weather moulding over the former roof	£ 423
3rd. Restoration of the east end of the choir, &c., with marble steps, altar, encaustic tile paving, and new organ loft	£4,742
4th. Carpenters' work in refitting the choir, new pulpit, litany desk, &c.	£2,720
5th. Restoration of mason's work in the exterior of the east end of the Lady Chapel, and repairing and restoring the whole of the interior	£2,530
	£16,134
To this should be added, for Architect's ℘ centage...	800
For his expenses when at Hereford	100
Clerk of the works, 50*s.* per week, for (say) three years	390
Working foreman of masons	250
	£17,674

I will venture to name £20,000 as the sum required, in order to extend it to such a scope as might fairly be expected to cover all extras, as the fittings, cushions, and such

things, not included in the estimates, especially the replacing of the organ itself, which is a matter of considerable importance, if not of difficulty: it will be highly satisfactory to the meeting to know that the Architect has assured the Chapter, that with the exception of the possible necessity for needle shoring in the tower, his estimates are calculated to cover every cost which might be incurred by any contingency arising from a discovery of a more defective state of the piers than has been already ascertained; that he has been in communication with builders and others, of known respectability, who have gone into his calculations upon his specifications and estimates, and that they were so satisfied with their accuracy, that they had professed their readiness to undertake contracts, and to give approved security for completing the work upon that basis.

It will now be my duty in the fourth place to shew what means the Cathedral possesses to meet the requisite outlay.

What is termed the fabric fund arises from a certain estate, at Shinfield in Berkshire, with the great tithes of that parish, the origin of which has already been explained. From this source an annual reserved rent of £568 5*s.* 10*d.* is supplied, besides the septennial fine upon the renewal of the lease, the amount of which is of course diminished by the magnitude of the annual rent; in addition to this there are other minor sums arising from similar sources, and from charges for burials in and about the Cathedral, and the erection of monuments,

amounting on the average of the last seven years, to £53 12*s.* 2*d.*, making together, annually, £621 18*s.* applicable to the sustentation of the fabric; but upon this fund there is unfortunately a debt of £9,244, which originated in the expenditure caused by the fall of the western tower in 1786, and the subsequent outlay on the nave and different portions of the Church under the superintendence of Mr. Wyatt. The interest annually payable on this account was £396 16*s.* 3*d.*, leaving only £225 1*s.* 9*d.* available for the numerous requirements of a building of such extent and antiquity as that to which these inadequate funds belong. The whole of the remaining sum of £225 1*s.* 9*d.* is, of necessity, expended annually in the repairs of the leads, windows, and walls, and on such other objects in connection with the Cathedral, as are specially directed and sanctioned by the statutes. I am aware that it has been assumed that from this source, the chancels of those Churches which belong to the Cathedral and the rectorial tithes of which are not under lease, are kept in repair; such repairs might indeed not improperly be classed under the head of fabric repairs, and at an earlier period it is probable that such expenditure was so provided for, but it is hardly necessary to remark that such is utterly impossible at present, for the fabric fund is itself inadequate to meet the requirements of the mother Church, as will be sufficiently proved by the fact, which each annual audit manifests,—and to such an extent, that during the ten years in which I have held the office

of Dean, it has been requisite that the sum of £1,149 7*s*. 0½*d*. should be contributed from the divisible funds of the Dean and Chapter, to meet that very deficiency, arising not from the pressure of unforeseen emergencies which must of course entail special and correspondent supplies, but from the ordinary, and necessary requirements of the fabric. In addition to this, it is not foreign to the purpose to declare, that the Dean and Chapter have never in latter years received any fine on their capitular estates without deducting five per cent., to be appropriated towards the formation of a sinking fund for the gradual liquidation of the fabric debt, and I have the satisfaction to be enabled to state that not only has that incumbrance, not been increased during my incumbency, but materially reduced, and during the last year a sum of £600 has been paid off. But, let it not be thought that these constitute the only costs which are defrayed from the general resources of the Cathedral body, and which have prior claim to any advantages which any member of that body either could, or would be desirous to plead.—Under the denomination of claviger's expenditure and accounts, an outlay of at least £600 is annually incurred, and to provide for this, it is no uncommon thing to find that considerable sacrifice must be made from their private resources, in short, that whatever expenditure is incurred upon or in connection with the Cathedral, is, in the present condition of the fabric fund, so much deducted from the emoluments to which each member of Chapter would otherwise be entitled.—

I am not, be it remembered, making this statement in any spirit of boasting, nor indeed had we been required to do much more, should I have deemed it more than it was our duty to do,—it is in order to lay before you the fair and undisguised state of the case, and to prove to you, I trust I may be excused if I do avow a satisfaction in being enabled to prove, that my Reverend brethren in common with myself are entitled to some consideration, some just pretension, to be regarded as honest towards their Cathedral,—as being desirous of discharging faithfully the honourable but onerous responsibility which attaches to them, of bearing their fair share of the burden, as well as the distinction of their office, as producing no discreditable account of their stewardship at this emergency.—Nor may I in justice to the establishment to which we belong, and to the benevolent system of which it is an important and influential portion, shrink from the declaration of facts, which cannot but manifest the interest which a Christian people largely share in the support and sustentation of such Institutions, and especially those who are more immediately located under the shadow of its walls. I would pass over the diffusion of its temporalities by the residence of its members, each for a considerable portion of the year, and the consequent advantages which are afforded without cost, by the daily service of the sanctuary, and the superintendence of its ministers, the succession of sound orthodox instruction, and the influence of example, which may justly be expected from those

who are distinguished by their elevation to such stations,—I would hope that these are appreciated, that they will be more and more felt and duly and practically acknowledged; but I may give some evidence of particular results which have accrued to this neighbourhood during the last year, and I am sure my hearers will admit, that pressed as we have been by the adverse circumstances of our Church, perhaps I might say too of the times, as affecting Church property—we have not been backward to afford to others a specimen of that benevolence which we have now occasion to look for in return. In addition to those calls, neither few nor light, which are made from extraneous quarters on those of our profession, and are responded to in the individual capacity of each—The Diocesan Church Building Society, has derived £100 from us as our corporate contribution, besides our single subscriptions—The Churches of St. Martin, St. Nicholas, St. Weonards, Llangarren, and Sellack, have each received a contribution of £20 during the last year. The chancels of Hentland, Madley, and Llangarren, have called for considerable outlay in their repair, and all those which are similarly situated have equal claims; whilst there is not a local charity in this city to which the churchman can be expected to contribute, which does not find a ready and extended support from our means, over and above the casual aid which we may give to those frequent appeals which in this age of beneficence are made to Christian piety and liberality.

It will not, I think, be deemed irrelevant to this part of my subject, if I add, that no slight corroboration of the assertions I have made, nor feeble evidence of the spirit and object of our endeavours is afforded, by the recollection that the transit of five or six years have witnessed the removal of one of the most unsightly appendages to the Cathedral,—I mean the brick building which was unfortunately erected on the site of the western range of the cloisters; the repair of the remaining portion of those cloisters, and entrance to the chapter house; the rebuilding of the Cathedral school-room, and the great improvement of the head master's house; with other embellishments in the Cathedral itself as well as its precincts, which had for their object to remove the miserable effect of the square panelled pews and organ loft, and to assimilate them as far as possible in style with the stalls, to which they were attached. But not to dwell longer on this part of the subject, I will take leave to pass on to that which stands next in order, the announcement of the contributions of those who are members of the Cathedral: I should not do justice to the purpose and the feeling of my Reverend brethren if I did not take this opportunity of declaring it to be my entire conviction, that those contributions were made with the view of promoting the sound and complete restoration of those parts of the Cathedral which have been already specified,—not of merely mending or patching them up; and I wish to declare unequivocally that it is with this especial purpose that I have

ventured to increase my own amount of contribution to £500. The list which I have the gratification to lay before you is as follows, with reference to which, it is but just to remark that there is only one member of the prebendal body whose decision has not yet been received, that there are five prebendal stalls at present vacant, and that one honorary prebendary has subscribed in the general list.

	£
The Lord Bishop	500
The Dean and Chapter	2000
The Very Rev. the Dean, to make up £500 as his contribution	169
The Chancellor of the Choir, Canon Morgan	100
The Precentor	50
The Treasurer, subscribes as Canon Residentiary	—
The Venerable Archdeacon Wetherell, (Hereford) ...	150
The Venerable Archdeacon Vickers (Salop)	25
The Worshipful Waties Corbett, Chancellor of Diocese and Prebendary	150
The Rev. Robert Wetherell, Senior Prebendary	150
The Very Rev. the Dean of St. Asaph, Prebendary ...	400
The Rev. John Hopton, Prebendary	200
The Hon. and Rev. Jas. Somers Cocks, Prebendary ...	100
The Hon. and Rev. Henry Rodney, Prebendary	50
The Rev. Jas. Wetherell, Prebendary	50
The Rev. K. E. Money, Prebendary	50

	£
The Rev. James Johnson, Prebendary	50
The Rev. John Clutton, Prebendary	50
The Rev. Charles Taylor, Prebendary	50
The Rev. James Garbett, Prebendary	100
The Rev. H. Hoskins, Prebendary	15
The Hon. and Rev. R. B. Stopford, Prebendary	50
The Rev. C. Swainson, Prebendary	50
The Rev. H. Lee, Prebendary	
The Rev. R. Biscoe, Prebendary	5
The Custos and Vicars	100
John Hunt, Esq. Organist	50
The Rev. Thomas Gretton, Vicar Choral and Vicar of Pipe (three instalments)	30
The Rev. William Cooke (late Vicar Choral), Vicar of Bromyard	25
The Rev. Edward Howells, Vicar Choral, Vicar of Preston, £5 a year till work completed, say 3 years	15
The Rev. William Munsey, Vicar Choral, Vicar of Fownhope, £5 a year till work completed, say 3 years	15
The Rev. Richd. Wetherell, Joint Registrar of Deanery	10
The Verger	5
The Sextons	5
The Choristers	2
	£4771

It only now remains to complete the plan which I proposed to myself in the delivery of this statement, by pointing out the sources from which it is hoped that the residue of requisite funds may be obtained. It has already been shewn how burdened are the fabric funds, how slender at best they are for the purpose of supplying a sufficient means of keeping in repair, much less of restoring to its proper beauty so extensive a building,—it has been declared that the members of the Cathedral, with the Bishop at their head, have contributed, I trust it is admitted, with no niggardly reserve, and it is worthy of remark that such contribution was the result of a consultation to which every member of the body was invited, at which the Bishop was present, and the entire circumstances of the case fully detailed and deliberated upon,—it has been felt that it became the Cathedral Clergy to set the example, and it is not doubted that after that has been done, an appeal will be successfully made to the community at large, upon the principles and motives of Christian liberality, for the support and appropriate ornament of this venerable temple of God, to the church communicants of the diocese first, and then, to this whole Christian land—to all who appreciating the sacredness of the purpose, and the worthiness of the object, may be ready to contribute "with a willing heart," not less with a reference to the pious dedication of their means to the service of Almighty God who bestows them, than to the sustentation of this edifice, which, over and above the considerations of

religion though pre-eminently stringent in themselves, is with others, which justly elicit the admiration and pride of our countrymen, most deserving of such aid, as a noble work of art, a monument of consummate skill, and a worthy example of Christian liberality and disinterested piety. Such then is the object of this day's assembly.—We lay before you our case, and we feel confident that your esteem for our sacred religion, and your attachment to our Church, will induce you to stand forward with effectual succour in this hour of unforeseen but pressing need:—I am well aware, indeed, that the constitution of a corporate body makes the Dean and Chapter the responsible parties in the execution of the works which shall be determined upon; but it has been suggested that it might tend to much satisfaction in the public mind if trustees unconnected with that body were appointed, to receive the funds which shall be contributed, and to supply them as they may be required,—to this arrangement, no objection will be offered; whilst I would also propose, in order to cause as little inconvenience as possible to our kind benefactors, that their contributions, should any wish to avail themselves of the plan, should be paid by three instalments, as the works will be performed probably in three portions, and will occupy a period of at least three years,—in addition to which it has been also thought advisable to associate with the Dean and Chapter for their aid and counsel, a committee, the powers of which will be defined in the resolution to be submitted for its appointment,

of which the capitular body shall be ex-officio members, and which shall be open to all subscribers of £20 and upwards, thus affording ample opportunity for investigation of the proceedings to be adopted, and a moral security for the due appropriation and safe custody of the funds.

The great length to which this statement has already been extended admonishes me of the necessity of confining my remarks in conclusion, within the smallest compass,—but feeling as I do, and not merely as a matter of bounden duty, a deep interest in this venerable fabric,—a Cathedral, to which as its chief guardian I cannot but be attached, from my station in it, I humbly trust that its cause has not been injured by the feeble advocacy which peculiar circumstances beyond my control have tended to render less efficient than it might in other hands have been. This I confidently trust at least I have now effected:—I have laid before you, and through you—the Christian public, generally, as clearly and satisfactorily as I could, the real, honest, and faithful description of the precise state and condition of this sacred edifice.—If personal entreaty, as its Dean, can have any weight, I do beseech you let the sacred principle on which I have based my appeal, have its perfect work.—I ask not of you what I am not ready and zealous to do myself,—I can sincerely aver that I have ever looked upon my connection with this Cathedral Church as a matter of *trust*,—I have ever been ready to sacrifice self considerations cheerfully, to make it what it ought to be,—I have

already made sacrifices for its sake, perhaps more, and greater than might ever appear, and I am ready to do so again, to the utmost of my ability; but anxious, deeply anxious as I am to see it restored to its appropriate and pristine beauty, to be worthy of the sacred purpose for which it should be employed to the latest posterity,—my feelings, as they apply to my own particular interests, and the personal concern and gratification I may enjoy in such accomplishment of my wishes, are limited and confined to the lifehold tenure, the transient and evanescent concern which I and those belonging to *me* share in these things—they must end with my life; they are of necessity as nothing in comparison to the feelings, the permanent and real interest, in which the proprietors of the soil in this city and county, and diocese of Hereford, are entitled to participate, surely must, and doubtless will experience in its preservation.—The probability is, that this frame will rest within those walls, these bones crumble beneath its roof, and mingle with the dust of my departed predecessors, and it is a weakness not unpardonable, I trust, nor unbecoming of the hopes and privileges of our order, if I avow some inward satisfaction at that thought,—the cordial concern I have felt at the too palpable neglect, the desecrations, the sad deformities which in earlier days have been permitted to remain unheeded and unreclaimed in this our sanctuary, and still are traceable; the humble efforts I have made, and not in vain, to meliorate its condition and the tone of feeling towards it, naturally

prompt a wish, that whatever be my fate, here may be my final resting place, and this the monument of my unworthy but unfeigned service; nay there is another cause, which has but recently supplied, a secondary perhaps, but not a cold or fleeting tie of attachment to this loved and venerated building: but when your sons, and son's sons, shall tread these courts of the Lord's house, and mark the spot where then shall my remains be crumbling with their kindred dust; oh, I do hope, and trust, that I have precluded the possibility of their complaint, their accusation that I had been supine and listless, deficient in my bounden endeavours to have justice done to such a monument of early piety and splendid liberality; I trust it never can be said, that it was through my culpable neglect and apathy, that at this golden opportunity, a sound and proper restoration had not been effected!—I will not trespass longer on your attention, I feel how much I am indebted to you for your patience, and I gratefully hail it, as a delightful presage of the interest you take in the objects of this meeting.

I cordially and sincerely thank you, and now I leave the result in your hands,—to the disposal of Him, to the honour and Glory of whose great name, and the highest blessings of yourselves, and all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity, I most fervently pray it may continually redound.

END OF THE STATEMENT.

APPENDIX.

Effigy on the north side of the Library, Hereford Cathedral, called the Countess of Hereford.

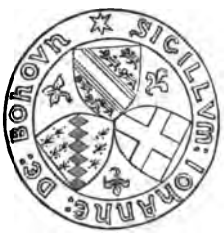
The Effigies in the Library or Lady Chapel at Hereford have been assigned by a tradition, for which no evidence can be adduced, to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, who died in the 46th year of the reign of Edw. III. 1372, and Joan his Countess. They were, however, buried in the north side of the Presbytery in Walden Abbey, Essex, and it is perfectly clear that the tradition in this instance is unfounded. The Knight, whose Effigy is here to be seen, was in all probability one of the Bohun family, and husband of the Lady whose Effigy lies under an arch in the wall adjoining; but to which of the Bohuns it is to be assigned, remains yet to be ascertained—the costume is of the earlier part of the fourteenth century.

The Effigy of the Lady, there can be scarcely a doubt represents "*Johanna de Bohoun, Domina de Kilpec,*" she was the sister and heiress of Alan Plonknett or Plugenet, of Kilpec, in the County of Hereford, a name distinguished in the annals of his times; and of his possessions, his sister doing her homage, had livery 19 Edw. II.

In 1327 Johanna de Bohoun gave to the Dean and Chapter of Hereford, the church of Lugwardyne, with the chapels of Llangarren, St. Waynards and Henthland, with all the small chapels belonging to them, which donation was confirmed by the King, by the procurement and diligence of Thos. de Chandos, Archdeacon of Hereford; and the Bishop of Hereford further confirmed it to the Dean and Chapter, by deed, dated Sugwas, 22 July, 1331. (ex Regist. MS. Thomæ Chorleton, Epī.) And afterwards the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter, appropriated the revenues of it to the service peculiar to the Virgin Mary, "because in other churches in England the Mother of God "had better and more serious service, but in the church of "Hereford the Ladye's sustenance for her prieste was so thinne "and small, that out of their respect they add this, by their "deeds, dated in the Chapter at Hereford, Apr. 10, 1333." (Harl. MS. 6726, fol. 109.)

Johanna de Bohoun died without issue, 1 Edw. III., 1327, the donation of Lugwardyne being perhaps her dying bequest. On the 17th of October in that year, she constituted John de Badesshawe, her attorney, to give possession to the Dean and

Chapter of an acre of land in Lugwardine, and the advowson of the church with the chapels pertaining to it. This instrument was dated at Bisseleye, and her seal was appended, of which a sketch is preserved by Taylor, in whose possession this document appears to have been in 1655. (?) and a transcript of it will be found Harl. MS. 6868, f. 77, (see also 6726, f. 109, which last has been printed in Shaw's Topographer, 1. 280.) In the Tower is preserved the Patent, 1 Edw. III., pro Ecclesia de Lugwarden cum capellis donandis a Johanna de Bohun ad inveniendum 8 capellanos et 2 diaconos appropriandа. (Tanner's Notitia Monast.)



The circumstances above mentioned appear sufficiently to explain why the memorial of Johanna de Bohoun is found in the Lady Chapel, to which specially she had been a benefactress. They also explain the original ornaments of this Tomb, the painting which was to be seen not many years since under the arch in which the Effigy lies, now unfortunately concealed by a coat of plaster, of which sufficient has been removed to prove that Gough's description of the original state of the painting is correct. He says, "the Virgin is repre-"sented sitting, crowned with a nimbus; a Lady habited in a "mantle and wimple, kneeling on an embroidered cushion offers "to her a church, built in the form of a cross, with a central "spire—and behind the Lady kneel eleven or twelve religious,

"chanting à gorge deployée after the foremost, who holds up "a book, on which are seen musical notes, and **salve sca** "**parens.** Fleur de lys are painted about both within and "without this arch, and on the spandrils two shields; on the "left, a bend cotised between twelve Lioncels; (Bohun.) and "on the right, Ermines, a bend indented, Gules." This description was published 1786. (Gough's Sep. Mon. 1. part 1, 194.)

By this painting there can be no doubt that the donation of the church of Lugwardine was represented—the eleven or twelve vociferous choristers were the eight chaplains and two deacons mentioned in the Patent, who were set apart for the peculiar service of the Lady Chapel, and provided for from the pious bequest of Johanna de Bohun. The two shields mentioned by Gough are still discernible, that on the dexter side bearing the arms of Bohun, Azure a bend, Argent between two cotises, and six lions rampant, or.—The other, Ermines, a bend indented, (or fusily) Gules, which were the bearings of *Plugenet*, derived perhaps originally from the earlier Barons of Kilpec, and still borne by the family of Pye, in Herefordshire, whose descent is traced to the same source.

In the list of obits observed in Hereford Cathedral, Johanna is called the Lady Kilpeck, and out of Lugwardine was paid yearly, for her obit, forty pence.

The following, which is a Copy of a curious document of the year 1320, *throws considerable light on the state of the fabric at that period.*

Universis sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis, ad quorum notitiam pervenerit hœc scriptura. Rogerus permissione divinâ Saresburery Episcopus Salutem in eo quem peperit uterus virginalis. Litteras Apostolicas cum filo serico et vera bulla plumbeâ bullatas in nulla sui parte corruptas inspeximus, tenorem qui sequitur continentes. Johannes Episcopus servus servorum Dei, dilectis filiis Decano et Capitulo ecclesiæ Herefordensis salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Personas vestras devotionis vestræ meritis exigentibus paterna benevolentia persequentes, petitionibus vestris libenter annuimus, easque quantum cum Deo possumus favorabiliter exaudimus, exhibita siquidem nobis vestra petitio continebat, quod *vos olim fabricam ecclesiæ Herefordensis instaurare volentes, super fundamentum antiquum quod judicio cementariorum, seu Architectorum, qui in arte suâ reputabantur periti, firmum et solidum putabatur, multa ad decorem domûs Dei superedificari fecistis opere sumptuoso, in quorum constructione viginti millia marcarum sterlingorum et amplius consumpsistis, et quia propter debilitatem fundamenti prædicti, quod superedificatum est tantam nunc minatur ruinam quod judicio simili aliud remedium adhiberi non potest, nisi predictæ ecclesiæ fabrica a fundamento totaliter innovetur; propter quæ et expensas etiam factas per vos in prosecutione Canonizationis bonæ memoriæ Thomæ de Cantilupo, Episcopi*

Herefordensis, variis premimini oneribus debitorum. Nos paterno vobis super hiis compatientes affectu, ac volentes propterea vobis de alicujus subventionis subsidio providere, parochialem ecclesiam de Shenyngfeld in qua jus Patronatûs preponitis vos habere, cujusque redditus viginti librarum sterlingarum secundùm taxationem, decimæ valorem annuum non excedunt cum capella de Swalefeld dependente ab eâ Sarum Diocesis aliisque juribus et pertinentiis suis, vobis et ecclesiæ vestræ in usus fabricæ ejusdem ecclesiæ Herefordensis, fabricâ ipsa durante, postmodum vero pro aliis ejusdem ecclesiæ Herefordensis necessitatibus faciliùs supportandis, dummodo, ut asseritis, jus patronatus habeatis in eâ, in usus proprios Apostolicâ auctoritate concedimus, ac etiam deputamus. Ita quod cedente vel decedente ecclesiæ predictæ Rectore liceat vobis corporalem possessionem ipsius ecclesiæ recipere, cujusquam assensu minime requisito, eamque in dictos usus permisso ordine retinere, reservata tamen de fructibus ipsius, per loci Diocesamum, perpetuo vicario in dicta ecclesia servituro congruâ portione, ex quâ valeat congruè sustentari, et incumbentia sibi onera supportare: non obstante, si aliqui super provisionibus sibi faciendis de his ecclesiis in eâdem diocesi, speciales vel de beneficiis ecclesiasticis in illis partibus generales Apostolicæ sedis vel legatorum ejus literas impetrarint, etiamsi per eas ad inhibitionem, reservationem, et decretum, vel alias quomodolibet sic processum, quibus omnibus quoad assecutionem aliarum ecclesiarum et beneficiorum nolumus prejudicium gene-

rari, seu si venerabili fratri nostro Episcopo Sarum, vel quibuscunque aliis conjunctim, vel divisim ab eadem sacra sede indultum, quod ad receptionem vel provisionem alicujus, minime teneantur, et ad id compelli, seu quod interdici, suspendi, vel excommunicari non possint, quodque de his ecclesiis aliisque beneficiis ecclesiasticis ad eorum provisionem, seu quamvis aliam dispositionem conjunctim vel separatim spectantibus nulli valeat providere per literas Apostolicas non facientes plenam et expressam, ac de verbo ad verbum de indulto his mentionem, et qualibet alia dictæ sedis indulgentia generali vel speciali cujuscumque tenoris existat, per quam presentibus non expressam vel totaliter non insertam effectus presentiûm impediri valeat quomodolibet, vel differri, et de qua cujusque toto tenore debeat in nostris literis fieri mentio specialis. Nulli ergo omnium hominum liceat hanc paginam nostræ concessionis et deputationis infringere vel ei ausu temerario contraire. Si quis antem hoc attemptare presumpserit indignationem ommnipotentis Dei, et beatorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum ejus se noverit incursurum. Datum Avimoniæ VII Kalendarum Februarii Pontificatus nostri anno quarto. Nos igitur specialis devocionis affectum ad beatum Thomam Confessorem, cujus venerandæ reliquiæ in dictâ Herefordensi Ecclesiâ continentur habentes, prefatis concessioni et deputationi nostrum impartimur assensum, volentes et concedentes pro nobis et successoribus nostris ut venerabiles viri, Decanus et capitulum supradicti corporalem possessiorem dictæ ecclesiæ de Shenyngfeld cum capella de Swale-

feld dependente ab ea recipere valeant, et in usus predictos perpetuis et futuris temporibus possidere secundum predictarum literarum apostolicarum exigentiam et effectum, salva nobis, successoribus nostris ac Decano et capitulo ecclesiæ nostræ predictæ annua pensione dimidii marcæ bonæ et legalis monetæ quam in recompensationem fructuûm, obventionûm, proventuûm et quorumcunque emolumentorum quæ nos et successores nostri sede Sarum plenâ, ac Decanus et loci capitulum eadem sede vacante, ratione et tempore vacationis dictæ ecclesiæ de Shenyngfeld cum capella predicta virtute antiqui præscripti et approbatæ consuetudinis in nostra predicta diocesi et hactenus pacifice observatæ possemus futuris temporibus et etiam deberemus percipere si concessio et deputatio factæ non essent predictæ, ordinavimus et tenore presentium ordinamus de consensu et voluntate venerabilis patris Domini Adæ Dei Gratia Episcopi Herefordensis et loci capituli, et etiam tenentis locum Decani et Capituli ecclesiæ nostræ Sarum de portionibus vicarii dictæ ecclesiæ de Shenyngfeld, qui pro tempore fuerit, qui eo prætextu in tanto uberiores existant, et per eundem Vicarium Canonico communario ecclesiæ nostræ Sarum qui pro tempore fuerit et per eum pueris choristis ejusdem ecclesiæ in subsidium sustentationis eorum in festo Annunciationis Dominæ in perpetuum annis singulis persolvendum. Et ad securitatem faciendæ hujusmodi solutionis majorem, volumus et etiam ordinamus de consensu venerabilis patris domini Episcopi Herefordensis predicti ac tenentis

locum dicti Decani et Capitulorum predictorum quod vicarius ecclesiæ de Shenyngfeld et sui successores in eadem statim cum instituti fuerint in vicaria predictâ prestent inspectis evangeliis juramentum quod fidelitu solvent annuatim pensionem predictam prout superiùs ordinatur. In quorum omnium testimonium atque fidem nos Episcopi supradicti presentes literas sigillorum nostrorum impressione communiri fecimus et etiam duplicari quarum unam penes Capitulum ecclesiæ Sarum, et aliam penes Capitulum ecclesiæ Herefordensis volumus remanere. Datum et Actum apud Sonnynggt iij nonarum Novembris anno Domini millimo trecentisimo vicesimo, presentibus dominis et magistris Nicholao Abbate Radyngg, Henrico Goher juris civilis professore, Willielmo de Selton Officiali Sarum, Thoma Talbot Rectore Ecclesiæ de Laxefeld, Norwicensis Diocesis, Roberto de Worthe Subdecano Sarum, Adam de Ayllyneton Rectore Ecclesiæ de Mordiford Herefordensis Diocesis, Johanne de Tarenta Archidiacono Sarum, Officiali Hugone de Knossyngton, Rectore Ecclesiæ de Gildene Morton, Vincentio de Tarenta, Ricardo de Estenore Notariis testibus ad præmissa vocatis specialiter et rogatis.

To this instrument two beautiful seals of Bishops, Roger le Poer, of Sarum, and Adam de Orleton, of Hereford, are appended.

The subjoined list of documents relating to the fabric appears in an ancient catalogue, but the documents themselves have not yet been found,—they may not improbably have fallen into the hands of Captain Silas Taylor, of the republican army, who, after the siege of Hereford, took away many documents from the archives of the Cathedral.—He had a taste for antiquarian research, and was the means, possibly, of preserving many documents which would otherwise have been destroyed.

1282.—John, Archbishop of Canterbury, gives indulgence of seventy days to him who should give forty days work to the fabric.

1286.—Bishop of Rochester—indulgence to pray for St. Thomas de Cantilupe.

1289.—Bishop of Sarum—the same.

1316.—The King (Edward III.) grants his brief over all England and Wales—super negotio subsidii ad Feretrum St. Thomæ et Ecclesiæ Herefordensis.

1319.—John de Aqua Blanca's will, in which he desires to be buried near his uncle Bishop Peter de Aquablanca, who lies buried under a beautiful canopied monument in the arch between the north aisle of the choir and the north transept, which contains the shrine of St. Thomas, "in novo opere."

1319.—Petition of the Dean and Chapter for Shinfield and Swallowfield, in Berkshire, for the Church was RUINOSA.

1319.—The Pope's Grant by Bull fourth year of John XXII.

1320.—Pope John XXII, obliges all the prebendaries to contribute to the repairs of the fabric.

1320.—Grants indulgence in usum fabricæ.

1320.—Archbishop Walter's Brief for translating the remains of St. Thomas de Cantilupe from the Ladye Chapel to the new work of the north transept.

1323.—Sequestration of John de Ross in usum fabricæ.

1329.—Shinfield lease renewed by order of the Pope, on an advanced rent, in consideration of the ruinous state of the fabric.

1360.—John de Evesham, mason, enters into indentures for doing the work of the fabric.

1364.—Thos. de Cantabrag, another mason, enters into the like.

Subjoined are notices and inscriptions on monuments commemorative of Bishops, by whose exertions the fabric of the Church has been from time to time benefitted. To them might be added that of Bishop Bisse, in 1717, by whose munificence, but misdirected taste, the Grecian screen of oak was erected at the east end of the choir, in which he was aided by Dean Tyler, Bishop of Llandaff.

Dnus Robertus de Lotheringa, Epus. Heref. Obiit. A.D. MXCVII. He rebuilt the greater portion of the Church of Athelstan.

Dnus Reynelmus, Epus. Heref. Obiit. A.D. MCXV. He completed the design of his predecessor, Bp. Lotheringa.

There is a figure of a Bishop, bearing a tower in one hand, said to represent Egidius de Breusa, or de Braos,—but there is no inscription connected with it—he died 1216. (See page 84.)*

Hicrequiescit venerabilis pater Gulielmus de Vere, Strenue rexit spatium XXX annis, et multa edificia egregia per spatium construxit, et feliciter obiit. IV Kal. Januarii, anno domini millesimo centesimo nonogesimo octavo.

Bishop Adam de Orleton, obiit 1345, whose seal is attached to the instrument relating to the fabric before given, was he who wrote the letter to the Lord Maltravers and Thomas Gurney, relating to King Edw. II., a prisoner in Berkeley Castle, ending "Edwardum occidere nolite timere bonum est."

Dnus Ludovicus Charlton, Epus. Heref. Obiit. A. D. MCCCLXIX. Built the White Cross, one mile from Hereford on the Hay road.

Audeley, 1495. (See page 83.)**

Carolus Booth, Episcopus Herefordensis, cum xviii annos v menses et totidem dies, ecclesiæ huic cum laude prefuisset, quinto die Maii MDXXXV defunctus sub hoc tumulo sepultus jacet. He erected the porch on the north side of the nave.



Ep. Booth's Porch.



Ep. Audley's Chapel.

The subjoined extracts are taken from the calendar of an ancient Missal "Secundum usum Herefordensem," which notes a great variety of "obiits" or commemorations of benefactors, principally between the times of Henry I. and Edw. II., except some few which are added by a later hand.—Those here given, except the first, relate to grants made to the fabric, as a few specimens amongst many, of the spirit which prevailed at that time,—but it should not be omitted to be stated that besides these, a vast multitude of grants of lands, and rent charges, are recorded in the same document, and in innumerable others, which however, are no longer available to the Church, or at least very few of them indeed; they are now enjoyed by lay possessors, although by what means they were alienated from the Church, is not known. Whilst I cordially and gratefully acknowledge the revival of that spirit of giving to the Church, and Church objects, which has of later years received so powerful an impulse, and is pervading the land to its exceeding blessing and honour, I cannot but imagine that these considerations will be deemed interesting, if not affording evidence that contributions of the pious, however disinterestedly and freely made on their part, are in fact, to a great extent, supplied from property which once actually belonged to the Church—before given, and assured as fixedly and firmly as the will of the pious donor and the law could then establish it. "Deo et Ecclesiæ, in perpetuam eleemosynam"—and such a reflection will doubtless ensure a larger measure of aid to the object of this publication.

Januarii XVIII. Kalend. Febr: Obitus Wulvive et Gadive quæ dederunt Hopam, Prestoniam, Pioniam, et Nortonem, et ceteras terras presenti Ecclesiæ, &c.

Martii VI, Id: Obitus Nicholai Penitentiarii Hereford: Canonici qui legavit Fabrice Ecclesiæ decem libras et octo marcas ad unum campanam faciendam, &c. &c.

XVII Kalend. April. Obitus Ade le Bonde de Hinetune, et Sibillæ uxoris sui qui dederunt operi hujus Ecclesiæ quatuor solidos annui redditus, provenientis de terra Brun Godrick in Blakemneston, qui jacit inter terram Hulleroed, et terram Wilhelmi de Stradeway, &c.

XV Kalend. Obitus bonæ memorie Stephani Decani Heref: qui contulit presenti Ecclesie viginti marcas, &c. &c., item Frabrice Ecclesie decem marcas, &c. &c.

Maii non: Obitus Roberti le Grent Capellani et vicarii Ecclesiæ Heref: qui legavit Fabrice Matris Ecclesie Heref: sex marcas, et majori altari Collectar: misse et unum antiphorum magnum et novum, et unum gradale unum troparium et unum processionale, &c. &c.

IIII Idus. Obitus Rogeri Capellani quondam subdecani Herefordensis, qui dedit XII marcas et dimidium Fabricæ Ecclesiæ.

II Kalend. Junii. Obitus Magistri Willhelmi de Hayæ, Canonici Ecclesiæ de Heref: qui dedit Fabrice Ecclesiæ decem marcas et XLI solidos annui redditus percepiendos, de duabus domibus in vicò Castri, que jacent

inter tenementum Roberti Mustard, ex parte una et Johannis de Mora ex altera &c. &c.

II Non. Obitus Magistri Rogeri de Boseburi Canonici et Penitentiarii Herefordensis Ecclesiæ qui legavit Fabricæ Ecclesiæ XI solidos &c. &c.

VII. Id: Obitus Johannis de Haya Sacerdotis et vicarii qui contulit presenti Ecclesiæ unum Calicem argenteum, et unum gradale cum tropario, et unum processionale, et Fabrice ejusdem Ecclesiæ quinque marcas argenti, &c.

XII Kalend. Tertio decimo Kalendarum Julii obiit Magister Petrus de Radenovere Canonicus Herefordensis, qui debit Fabrice Ecclesie, X marcas et unam capam broydatam, &c. &c.

III Idus Julii. Obitus filii Mauritii Canonici et Sacerdotis et Magistri Stephani de Gurmevil Canonici Hereford: qui contulit *operationi* Ecclesiæ antedicte XL Solidos.

XV Kalend. Augusti. Obitus Wlfrici Canonici, et Fratrum, Sororum et Benefactorum Herefordensis Ecclesiæ et Simonis Archidiaconi Salop. Hic dedit XX marcas Fabrice Ecclesie et XX marcas ad ornamenta emenda, &c.

XIV Cal. Obitus Radulfi, filii Helye, et uxoris ejus Rikilde dederunt IIII Solidorum terram; et Ricardi Clerici filii Edmundi Croft, dedit VI denariorum terram, et Magistri Roberti de Ywarbi Pecentoris hujus Ecclesiæ, dedit decreta sua, et V marcas Fabrice Ecclesiæ.

V Kalend. Obitus Magistri Johannis Colecestre, Canonici Herefordensis et Hugonis Sacerdotis de Sancto Martino, qui dedit Capitulo Herefordensi nemus de Clehangre, quod emerat de Waltero Cormail, et unam virgatam terræ quam emerat ab eodem in Bolinghopo, et cooperuit totam Ecclesiam plumbo sumptibus suis propriis, &c.

XIII Kal. Septembris. Obitus Walleri de Bannebyri Canon: Heref: qui dedit operi Ecclesie XX Solidos, &c.

X Kal. Obitus Domini Edmundi Audeley, quondam Sarum ** Episcopi, qui dedit redditum XX Solidorum distribuendorum Canonicis et Clericis in anniversario suo presentibus, quique capellam novam juxta Feretrum Sancti Thomæ Confessoris e fundo construxit, et in eadem Cantariam perpetuam amortizavit, &c. Constituit necnon Feretrum argenteum in modum Ecclesiæ fabricatum atque alia quam plurima huic Sacre Edi contulit beneficia.

VI Idus. Sept. Obitus Domine Agnetis de la Punde, que contulit Fabrice istius Ecclesie septem marcas et pannum deauratum.

Idus. Obitus Magistri Phillippi de Haya, qui legavit Fabrice Ecclesie XXX marcas.

V Kal. Oct. Obitus Rogeri de Brunchope et Ysabelle uxoris sue dederunt redditum duorum Solidorum et operi Ecclesie quadraginta Solidos, et unam casulam bron-

datam de rubeo samico pretii decem marcarum, &c. et Ricardi filii Punci et Johannis Rocolt et Royse uxoris sue qui dederunt XII denariorum terram et duos denarios annui redditus operi Ecclesie, &c.

XI Kal. Novem. Obitus Alexandri de Swerkford Thesaurarii London: qui contulit presenti Ecclesie unam Bibliothecam et operi ejusdem Ecclesie quinque marcas—et in vita sua excommunicari fecit omnes qui dictum librum a presenti ecclesia alienarent, &c.

V Kalend. Obitus Renelmi Episcopi, fundatoris Ecclesie Sancti Ethelberti—over the word Ecclesie is written Hospitii, in a later hand.

Non. Obitus Domini Johannis de Breconia Sacerdotis et Vicarii in majori ecclesia Heref: dedit predicte Ecclesie unam casulam preciosam de rubeo sameto bene bendatam cum aurifragio; item unam albam preciosam cum toto apparatu brudato, item unam capam preciosam de Baudekino, item dedit Fabrice ejusdem Ecclesie quadraginta solidos.

XV Kal. Decem. Obitus pie memorie Egidii de Breusa Herefordensis Episcopi, qui inter cetera bona decimas omnium molendinorum maneriorum suorun Herefordensi Ecclesie contulit, et per cartam quam a Domino Rege Johanne acquisivit omnes homines sui ab exactionibus vicecomitum liberantur.

(He is said to have built the tower at the west end of the nave which fell in 1786.)

Item Illustris Regis Domini Henrici filii Regis Johannis. qui libertates istius Ecclesie a suis antecessoribus collatas confirmavit, et mitram cum Margaritis huic Monasterio contulit preciosam.

XVIII Kal. Jan. Obitus Stephani de Hernhulle militis qui contulit operi hujus Ecclesie XL Solidos.

XIII Kal. Obitus Magistri Thomæ Foliot Thesaurarii qui dedit presenti Ecclesie capam viginti trium marcarum cum libris et ornamentis Capelle sue, et Canonicis V marcarum et ad Fabricam Ecclesiæ triginta marcas. &c. &c.



The Nave of the Cathedral Church of Hereford is 124 feet long, by 31 feet 6 inches wide—before the fall of the western tower in 1786, it was 15 feet longer, the tower having stood upon the two last arches.

The north and south aisles are each 14 feet 9 inches wide.

The choir is 95 feet 6 inches long, 34 feet wide, and includes that portion immediately under the central tower, or in other words, the breadth of the transept.

The north aisle of the choir is 14 feet wide. The south aisle, 13 feet 6 inches.

The transept between the choir and Lady Chapel is 31 feet 6 inches long, 17 feet wide. The portion on the north east is 35 by 34 feet, that on the south east, 36 feet 6 inches, by 34 feet 6 inches.

The Lady Chapel itself is 75 feet 6 inches long, 30 feet 6 inches wide.

Height of the main arches of the tower, 58 feet from level of the bases of their piers to the soffit.

The crypt, under the Lady Chapel, is 50 feet long, by 30 wide, consisting of a nave and aisles formed by two ranges of columns.



The following letters, having reference to works completed by Mr. Cottingham, were sent too late to be read at the meeting, and are now in justice to him included in the appendix.

The President of Magdalen College, Oxford, to Mr. Cottingham.

Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Feb. 14, 1832.

Sir,—Your plan for the restoration of the interior of our Chapel, which was adopted by the Fellows of the College, has been executed in a manner which obtains, I understand, the highest praise from all capable judges.

I am, Sir,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

M. J. ROUTH.

To the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

Upper Marsh, Lambeth,

15th Feb. 1832.

Gentlemen,—Having been solicited by Mr. Cottingham, Architect, to express to you my opinion of his professional abilities, I beg to state, that he has been employed by me these eight or nine last years in laying out an extensive estate in the parish of Lambeth, and that between 80 and £90,000 have been expended in buildings thereon, under his sole direction and superintendence, to my entire satisfaction. He had many difficulties to contend with in the foundations, &c. but I can with much pleasure declare, that the buildings have not

in any instance cracked or given way, but on the contrary, are greatly admired both for the design, and the substantial manner in which they are constructed.

From Mr. Cottingham's energy, integrity, and ability, I have never had cause to regret placing my estate in his hands, and from *other* circumstances, I cannot but consider him fully competent to superintend the erection of buildings of any magnitude.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

JOHN FIELD.

N.B. Upwards of £50,000 has since been expended on the above estate since the date of Mr. Field's letter, under the direction of Mr. Cottingham.

John Harrison, Esq. to Mr. Cottingham.

Snelston Hall, 26th Feb. 1832.

Dear Sir,—It is with sincere pleasure that I am able to answer your application for my testimonial of your ability as an Architect, in the most satisfactory manner.

The house you have erected for me here, will, I trust, long remain a standing proof of your good taste, and ability. It is greatly admired by all, both for the beauty of its external and internal appearance, the convenience of its arrangements, and the solidity of its construction,—and all are astonished at the rapidity with which the work was executed, and without meaning to disparage the works of others, I feel confident that

the Committee for rebuilding the Fishmongers' Hall will not, from all the applicants they may have, be able to select an Architect of more talent, and ability, than yourself.

And I am, Dear Sir, much yours,

JOHN HARRISON.

N.B. The above house cost nearly £30,000.

The following has been sent just as the Statement was going to press—

Roos, Patrington, April 18, 1842.

My dear Sir,—Our Church was re-opened for divine service the week before last—We had a large party, and a number of the neighbouring clergy attended, who all expressed themselves in admiration of the restoration of the Church. I had some plans of the sittings in the nave and aisles struck off, with the names of those to whom the seats were allotted, of which I send you a copy. I hope we are to have the pleasure of seeing you down shortly, as I wish for your advice about the neighbouring Churches, but pray let me know, as if you cannot come at present, I must take some other steps about making a return of their general state of repair. Pray come however, if you can, as I much wish you to join in the admiration of your own work.—At any rate accept my best thanks for the beautiful state into which you have put our Parish Church. Your's very faithfully,

To L. N. Cottingham, Esq. CHARLES HOTHAM.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

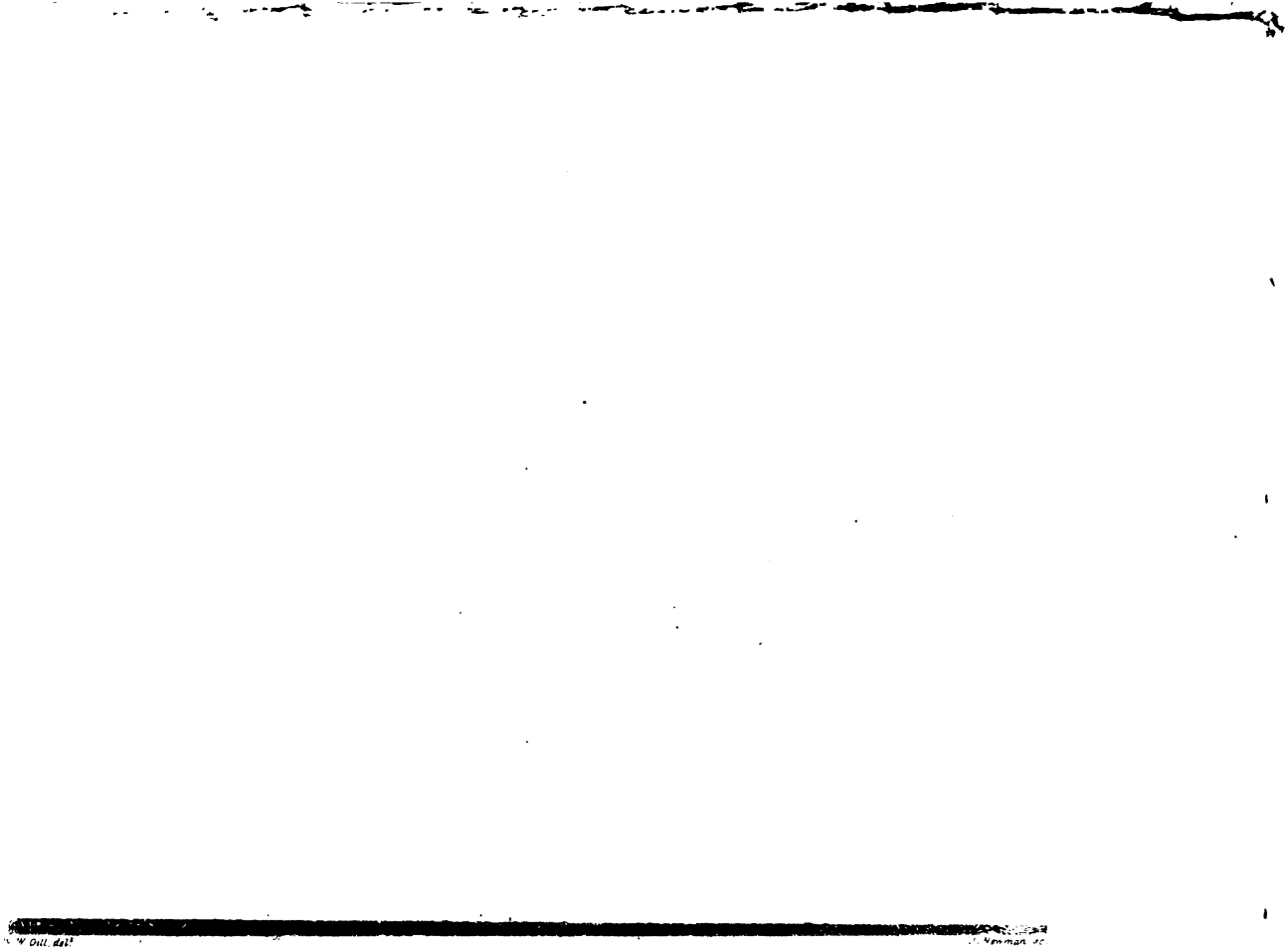
Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy Palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Psalm cxxii, verses vi, vii, viii, ix.

W. H. Vale, Printer, 23, High Town, Hereford.



W. Dill. del.

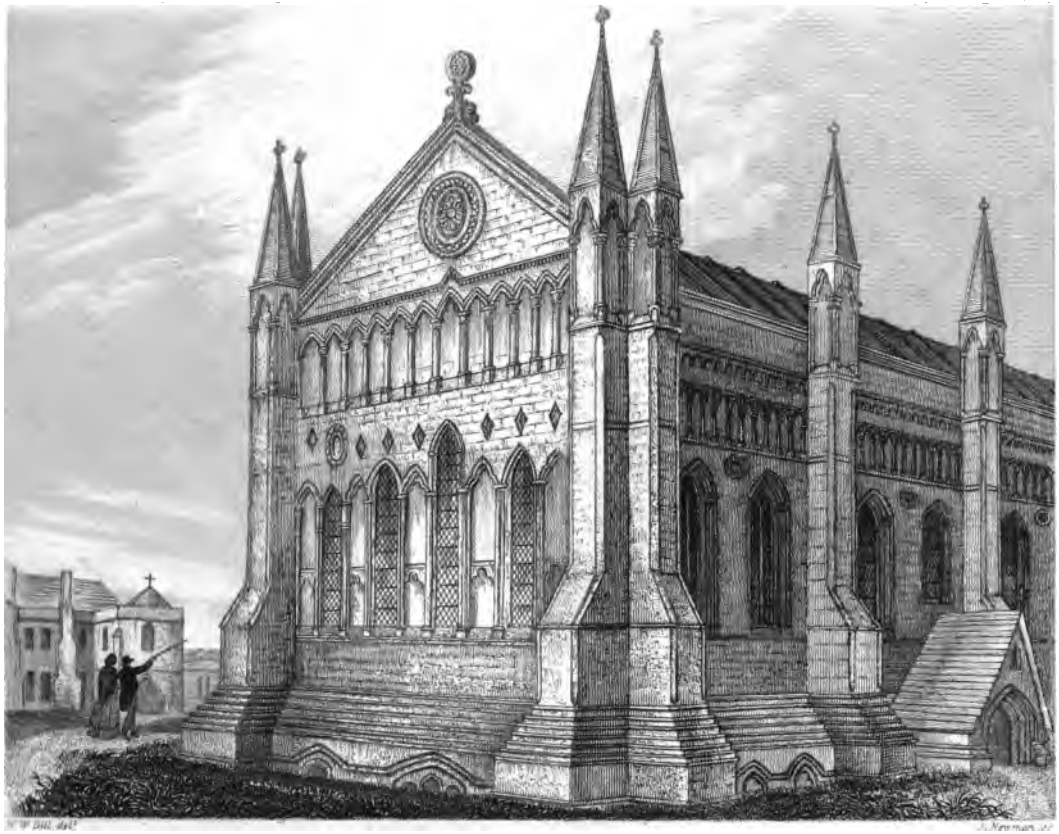
J. Newman sc.

THE LADY CHAPEL.

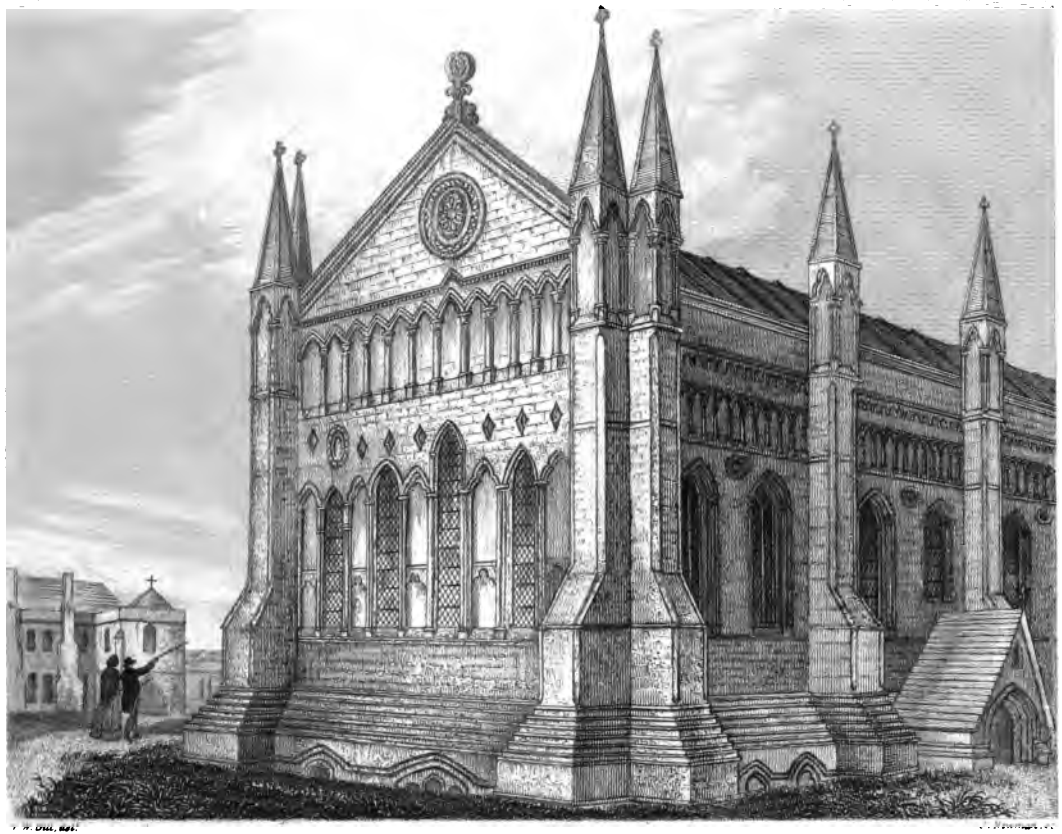
Published by A. H. Baily & Co. 83 Cornhill.



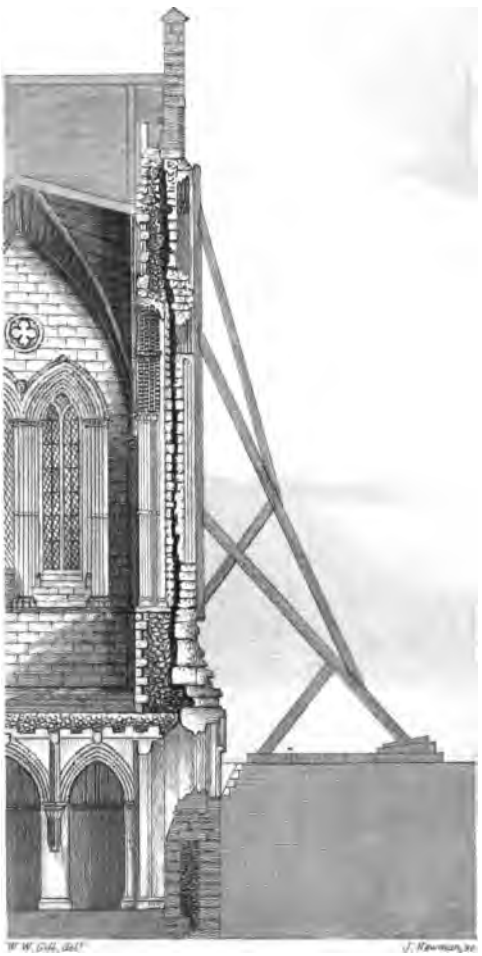
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THE LADY CHAPEL.



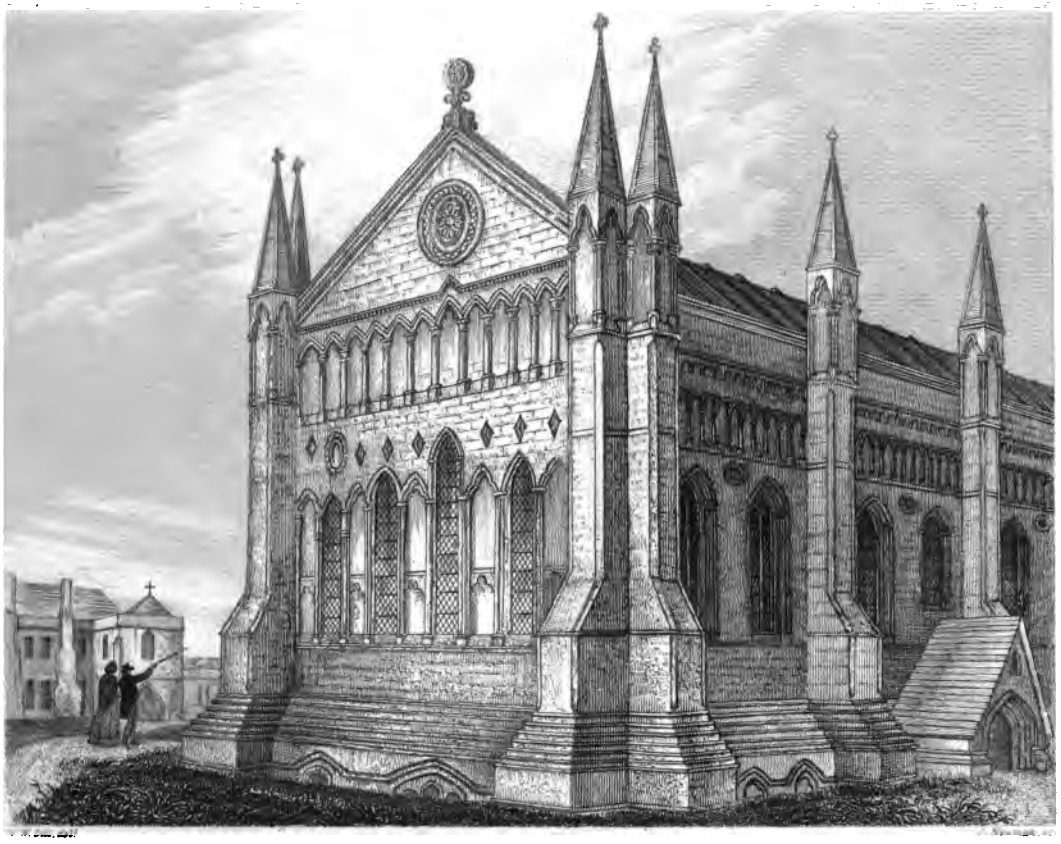
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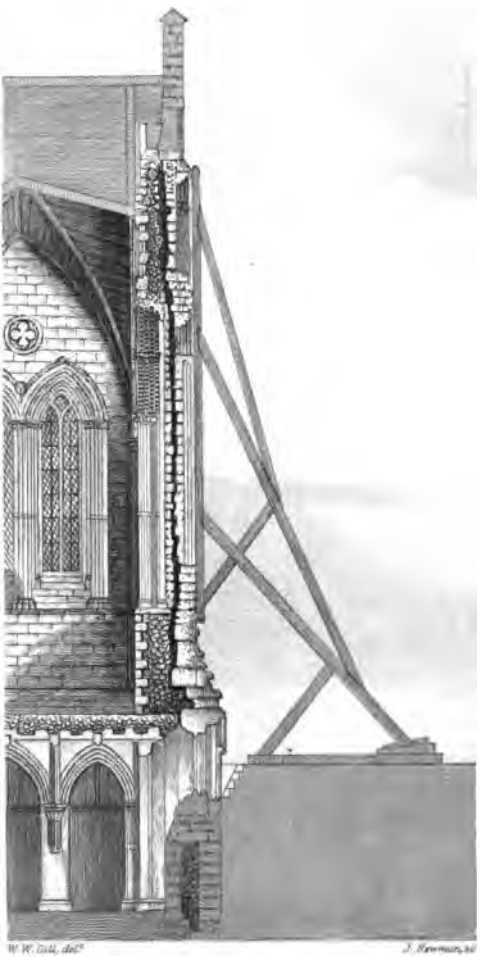
SECTION OF THE EASTERN END OF LADY CHAPEL.

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LADY CHAPEL.

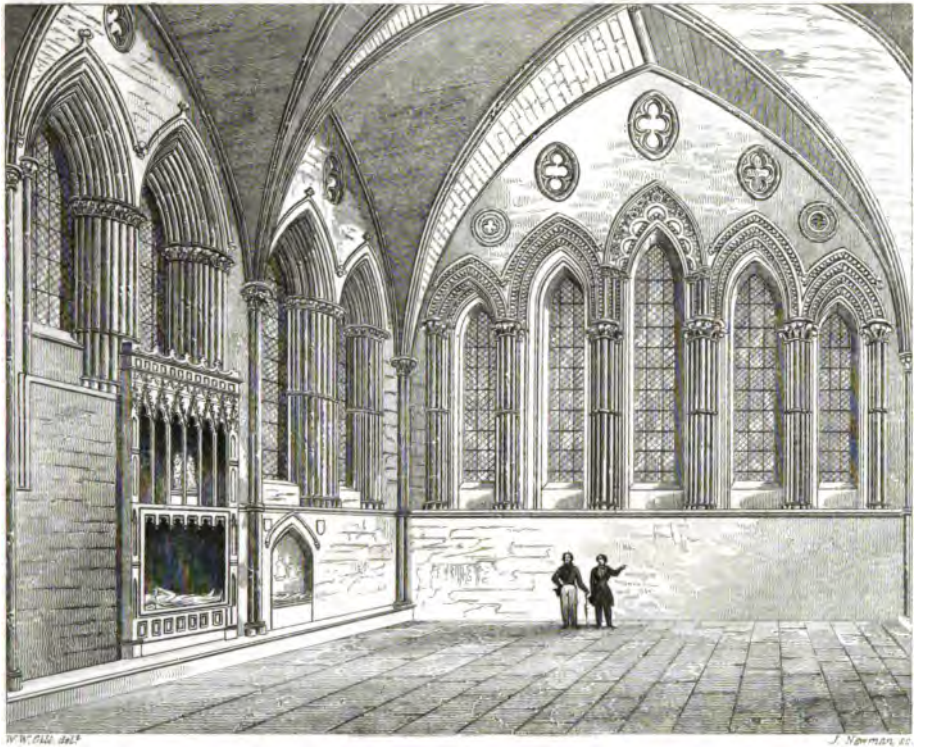


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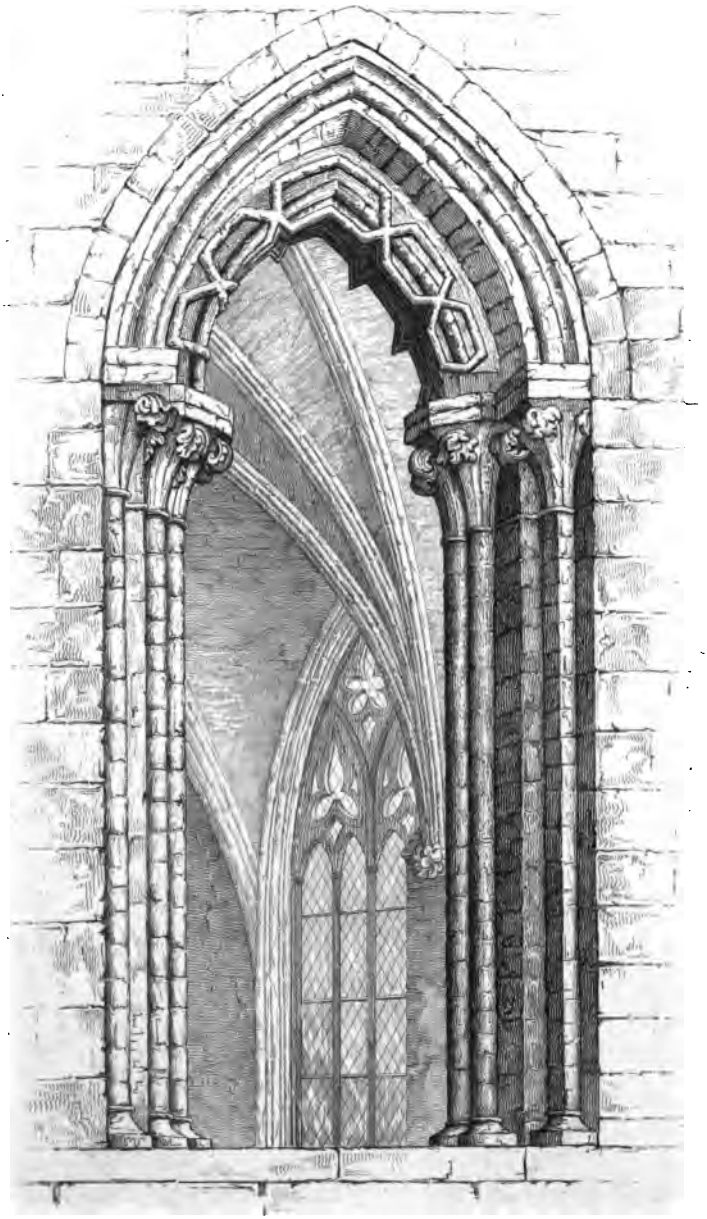




INTERIOR OF THE LADY CHAPEL.

Pub. by W.H. Vale. High Town, Hereford.

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W W Gill del. A B Johnson fc

ONE OF THE ARCHES DISCOVERED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE LADY CHAPEL.

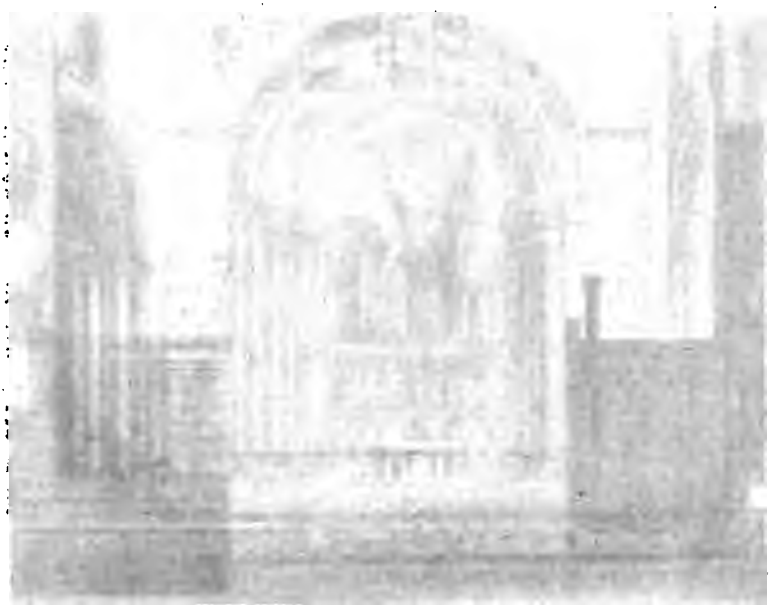
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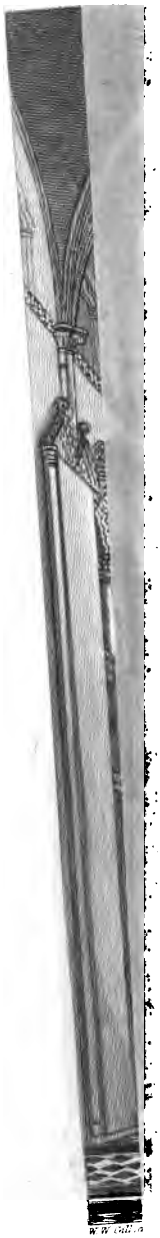
EAST END OF THE CHOIR OF HEREFORD CATHEDRAL.

1841

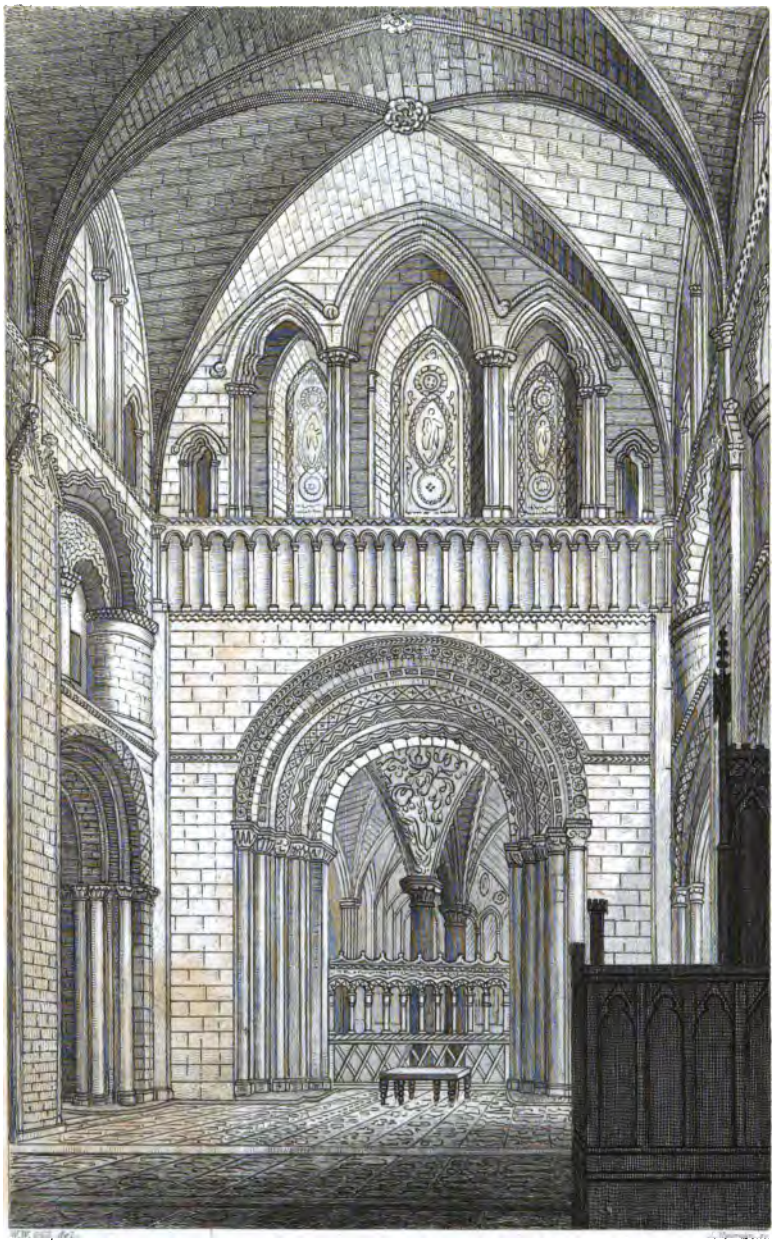
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Pub. by W.H. Ireland, 38 Crown Court, Covent Garden.

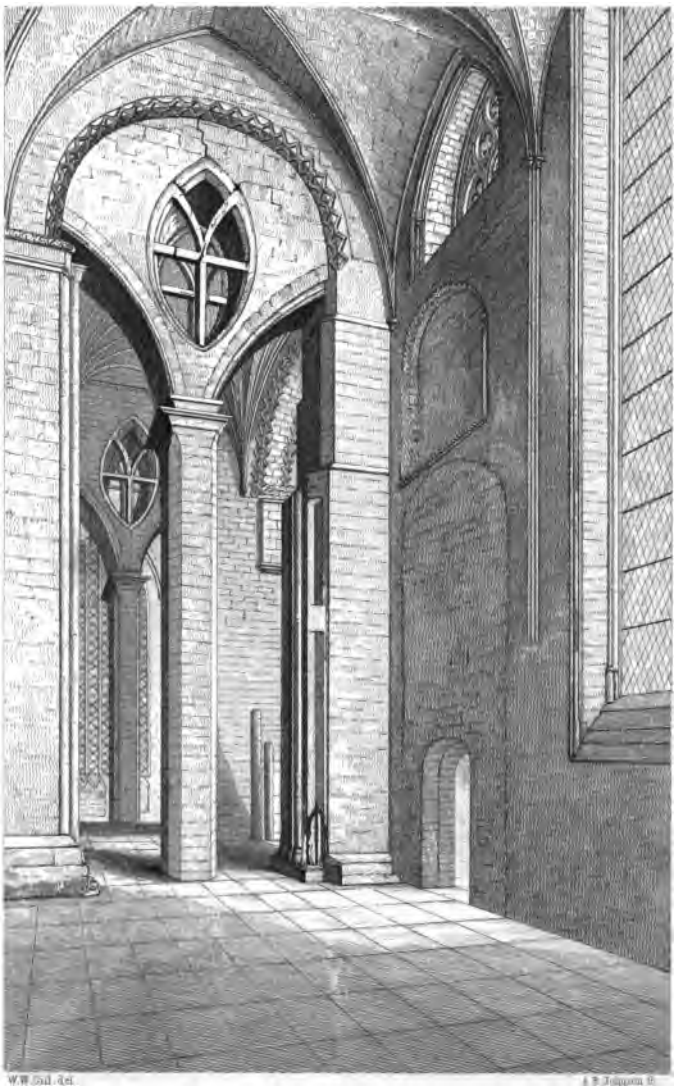


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EAST END OF THE CHOIR OF THE RESTORED CATHEDRAL CHURCH

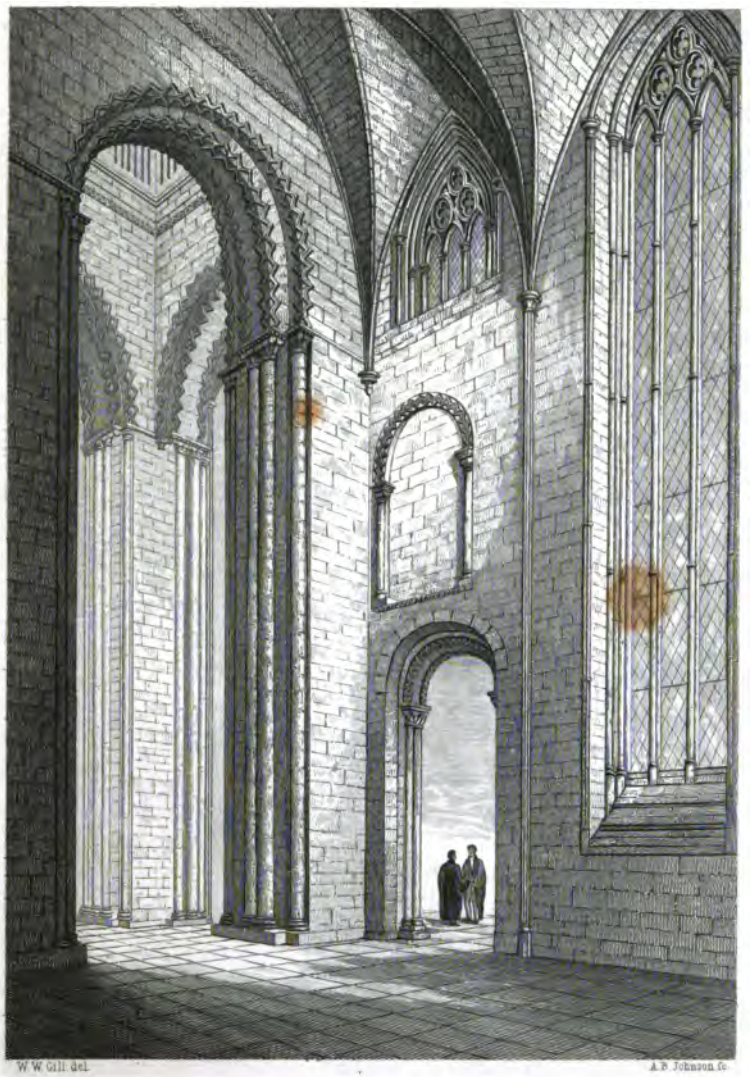
Pub.d by W.H. Ireland from Hereford.



THE NORTH ARCH OF CENTRAL TOWER, SHEWING THE MASONRY, ERECTED ABOUT 1320 &c.

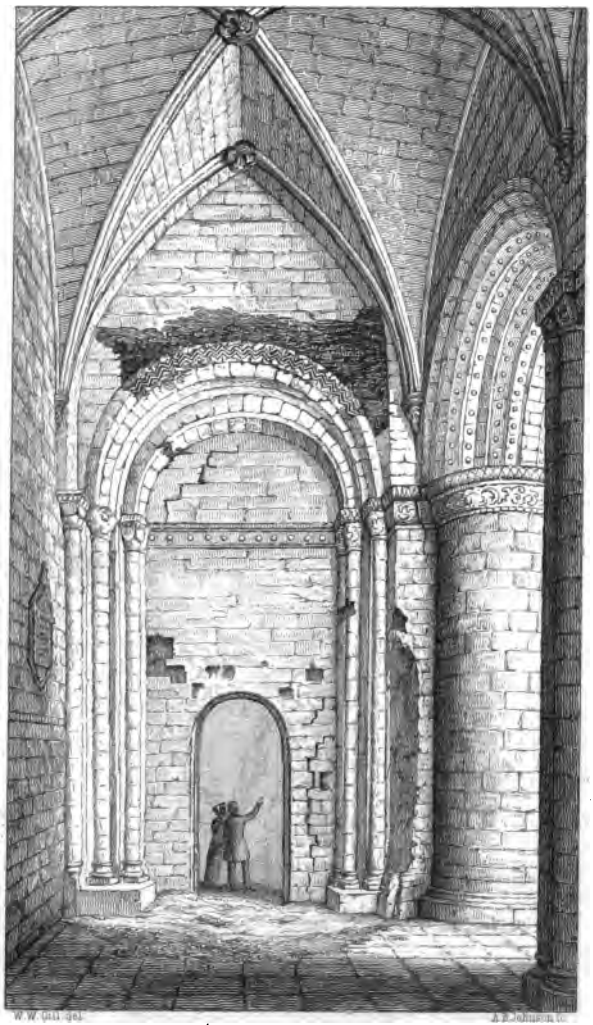
Hereford. Published by W H Vale

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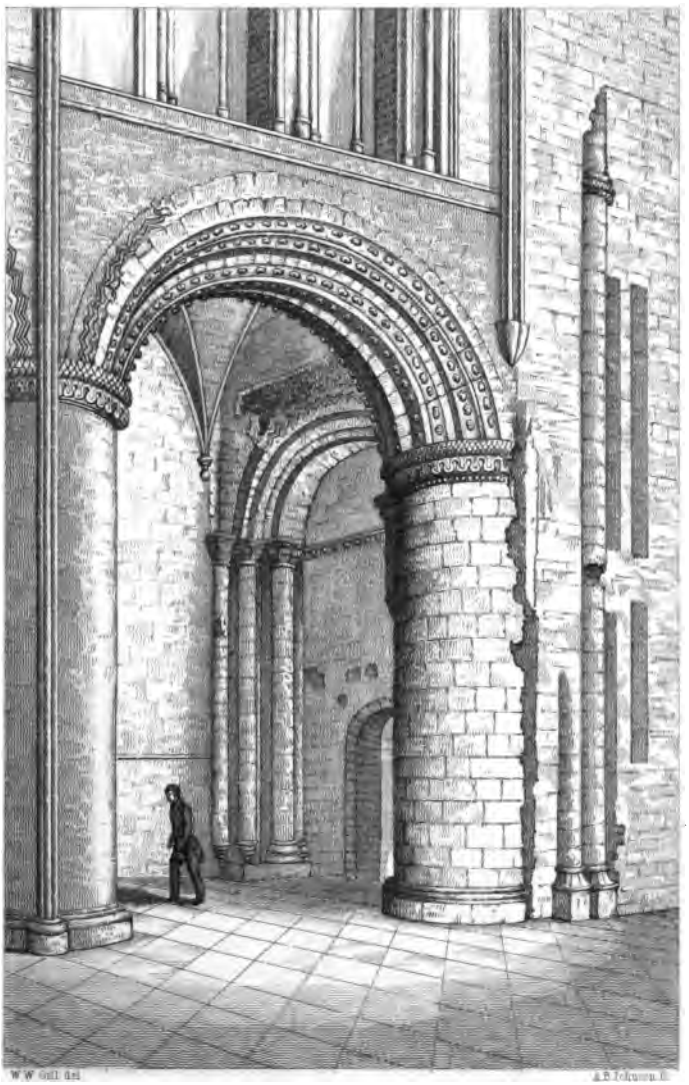
NORTH ARCH OF TOWER AND TRANSEPT WALL, RESTORED.

Hereford Published by W H Vale



ARCH AT THE WEST END OF THE NORTH AISLE.

Hereford Published by W.H Vale



THE FIRST ARCH OF THE NAVE ADJOINING THE CHOIR

Hereford Published by W H Vale

